Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-209
Tuesday
29 October 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-209 29 October 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Madrid Talks

Participants in Talks Arrive, Make Statements 1
Gorbachev *[Madrid Radio]* 1
Shamir *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Possible Disarmament Bid Previewed *['AL HAMISHMAR 29 Oct]* 1
Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation *[Madrid Radio]* 1
Delegation Heads Make Statements *[Amman Radio]* 2
'Ashrawi Seeks 'Mutual Trust' *[Madrid Radio]* 2
Stresses Striving for Agreement *[Madrid Radio]* 2
Al-Husayni Optimistic *[Madrid Radio]* 3
Egyptian, Lebanese, GCC Officials *[Madrid Radio]* 3
Egyptian Foreign Minister's Statement *[MENA]* 3
Syrian Delegation Named *[AFP]* 4
PLO Confederation Agreement Reportedly Drafted *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Al-Majali: Negotiating Topics Already Prepared *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Oct]* 4
Sources on Jordanian-Palestinian Differences *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Oct]* 4
'Uraygat Sees Madrid as 'Battle,' Not Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 27 Oct]* 5
Remarks on PLO Backing Clarified *[AL-DUSTUR 27 Oct]* 6
Al-Ja'bari: Delegation Not Alternative to PLO *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 27 Oct]* 6
Arab League Chief Views Talks Prospects *[Lisbon Radio]* 7
Gonzalez Meets Jordanian-Palestinian Representatives *[Madrid Radio]* 7

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministers Coordinate for Madrid Talks *[AFP]* 7
Ministerial Council Communique *[SPA]* 7
Conference on Boycotting Israel Postponed *[Baghdad Radio]* 8

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Claims Responsibility for Bus Attack *[AFP]* 8
'Ashrawi Interviewed on Madrid Conference *[Amman TV]* 8
'Arafat Discusses East Jerusalem, Madrid Talks *[London TV]* 13
Accepts Multinational Force Idea *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Says Jewish Settlements To Be Razed *[TASS]* 14
Chief Madrid Delegate Views Conference Outlook *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 27 Oct]* 14
PLO's al-Sus on Talks, Intifadah *[HA'ARETZ 25 Oct]* 15
Al-Husayni Addresses Rally in Amman *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Oct]* 17
'Text' of Intifadah Call 76 *[Algiers VOP]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Opposition Leaders Explain Boycott Decision *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Musa 'Full of Hope' for Madrid Conference *[MENA]* 20
'Optimistic' Musa Departs *[MENA]* 21
Madrid Delegation Departs *[MENA]* 22
Mubarak Receives Syria's al-Shar' *[MENA]* 22
Musa Confers With Palestinian Delegation *[MENA]* 22
Musa, Palestinians Comment *[MENA]* 22
Mubarak Receives Palestinians *[MENA]* 22
Palestinian Delegation Departs *[MENA]* 22
Muslim Brotherhood Rejects 'Sell-Out' Talks *[AL-SHA'B 22 Oct]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Prime Minister Reviews Defense, Political Status *[KUNA]* 25
Western Banks Participate in $5 Billion Loan *[KUNA]* 25

Oman

Official on Gulf Security Cooperation *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Oct]* 25

Saudi Arabia

King Names New Ground Forces Commander *[Riyadh TV]* 27
Ambassador Reportedly To Return to Amman *[MENA]* 27

Yemen

Iraqi Rebel Radio Reports 'Planned Coup' *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 27

IRAQ

'Aziz Reaction to Nonaggression Pact Claims *[INA]* 28
Source Denies Saddam Refused To Receive 'Arafat *[INA]* 28
Rebel Radio Reports Al-Najaf Under Siege *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 28
Two 'Regime' Helicopters Defect to Iran *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 28

ISRAEL

Shamir Departs for Madrid Conference 29 Oct 29
Insists on Talks in Region *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Holds News Conference *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Shamir To Meet With USSR's Gorbachev 30 Oct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Three Palestinian Advisers' Madrid Travel Banned *[AFP]* 30
Settlers' Bus Fired on in West Bank 'Ambush' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Two Killed; Five Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
'Ashrawi Remarks Linked to Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Further Reaction to Attack *[HA'ARETZ 29 Oct]* 30
'Vigilantes' Threaten To Execute Arabs *[HADASHOT 29 Oct]* 31
Cabinet Ministers Comment on U.S. Moves, Tactics 31
Arens 'Worried,' 'Disappointed' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Ne'eman on 'Steamroller Tactics' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Der'i Believes Shamir Capable of Concessions *[HA'ARETZ 28 Oct]* 33
Deputy Minister Resigns; Tehiya Seeks Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Delegate Rubinstein: Delegation Not Hawks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
MK Mi'ari To Represent Israeli Arabs in Madrid *[DAVAR 29 Oct]* 34
Labor Asked To Moderate Criticism During Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Herzog Cautious on Conference, Peace Prospects *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
U.S. Plan for Golan Heights Settlement Noted *[HA'ARETZ 27 Oct]* 35

Delegation, Prospects for Madrid Talks Viewed 35
Selection Criticized *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Oct]* 35
PLO 'Achievements' Outlined *[HADASHOT 28 Oct]* 35
'Baseless Illusions' Seen for Shamir *['AL HAMISHMAR 28 Oct]* 36
Demonstration Urges Peace Without Concessions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Hizballah, Others Intend To Increase Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Police Strengthens Force To Prevent Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Arabs Banned From Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
No Ban on Arab Entry Into Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Door of Spanish Consulate in Jerusalem Torched *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Palestinian Opposition Urges Armed Intifadah *['AL HAMISHMAR 28 Oct]* 38
Triangle Arabs Detained for Intifadah Acts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Soldier 'Critically' Injured in Nabulus 27 Oct *[HADASHOT 28 Oct]* 38
IDF Shelling in South Lebanon Continues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
IDF Soldiers Wounded; 'Terrorists' Killed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 38
Security Moves Yield 'Drop' in Infiltrations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Six Iranians Held in Custody After Infiltration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39

JORDAN

Conference Supporters, Opponents Clash in Amman *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 40
Further on Fighting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 40
TIMES Views Confrontation *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Oct]* 40

LEBANON

Hizballah Rejects Madrid Talks, Urges Struggle *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Lubrani: Israel 'Ready To Negotiate' Withdrawal *[VOL]* 41
Al-Hirawi: No Peace While South Occupied *[RFL]* 41
Israel Reiterates Demand To Share Water *[VOM]* 41
Continued Military Activity in South Reported 41
Israeli Shelling Continues *[RFL]* 41
Israelis Reinforce Eastern Sector *[VOM]* 41
SLA Involved in Clash *[RFL]* 42
Hizballah Claims Bombing *[VOL]* 42
Further on Bombing *[AFP]* 42
Israeli Patrol Ambushed *[VOM]* 42
Three Glider Planes Downed *[VOL]* 42
Search for Pilots Continues *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Glider Pilot Captured *[VOL]* 42
Islamic Jihad Links Ankara Blasts to Madrid *[VOM]* 43
President Al-Hirawi Pays Official Visit to Italy *[cross-reference]* 43

SYRIA

Al-Asad Instructs Conference Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Al-Asad Discusses Peace Conference *[SANA]* 44
Al-Shar' Returns From Egypt Visit 27 Oct *[Damascus Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Moscow Visit May Be Postponed *[AFP]* 49

India

Border Talks With Pakistan Slated 29 Oct *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Talks Open in Islamabad *[Islamabad Radio]* 50
Minister: 6 Pakistanis Killed in Border Attack *[Delhi TV]* 50
Debate on Uttar Pradesh Temple Issue Continues 50

Rao: 'Center Cannot Interfere' *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Uttar Pradesh Urged To Obey Court Order *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Uttar Pradesh To Maintain Law, Order *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Janata Dal Leader's Visit Prevented *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

'Terrorists' To Attack U.S. Citizens in Kuwait *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 51
Karrubi Calls Conference Anti-Palestine 'Plot' *[IRNA]* 51
Tehran Dailies Cited on Madrid Conference *[IRNA]* 52
'Flagrant Insult' But Spain Can Still Back Out *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Oct]* 53
King Husayn's Dilemma Over Conference Viewed *[ETTELA'AT 14 Oct]* 54
Lebanon's Junblatt on Peace Conference, Intifadah *[RESALAT 20 Oct]* 54
PRC's Yang Grants 'Exclusive' Interview *[IRNA]* 55
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Foreign Plots *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Jordanian Speaker Interview Before Leaving *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Mexico To Open Embassy in Tehran 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 57

Pakistan

PRC's Yang Shangkun Meets Parliament Officials *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Foreign Affairs Official on PRC Leader's Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
PRC Delegation Calls on Senate Chairman *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
IMF Chief Calls on President Ishaq Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Nawaz Sharif on Afghan Mojahedin's USSR Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Madrid Talks

Participants in Talks Arrive, Make Statements

Gorbachev

LD2810201991 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The plane bringing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Madrid has landed. [passage omitted] Angel Garcia reports from Barajas airport:

[Garcia] [passage omitted] Mikhail Gorbachev, accompanied by Raisa Gorbacheva, is now coming down the steps of the presidential plane and is now meeting Prime Minister Gonzalez. Felipe Gonzalez is welcoming the Soviet president. [passage omitted] After being received by the Spanish prime minister, Gorbachev will go from Barajas to the Soviet Embassy, which will be his official residence during his visit. The Soviet Embassy will also be the venue for the meeting between the Soviet and U.S. Presidents tomorrow at around midday. [passage omitted]

Shamir

TA2910124591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1216 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Report by Natan Gutman from the "Israeli communications center" at the Princesa Hotel in Madrid—live]

[Text] The prime minister made a short stopover at this hotel on the way to his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales and agreed to make a brief statement to journalists. In fact, he read a written announcement to the dozens of correspondents who surrounded him. The main message of his statement was of course one of peace: Israel is going for peace despite the terrorist acts, despite the fears. Let us hear an excerpt of his statement.

[Begin Shamir recording, in English] The peace talks will not [word indistinct] but they are the crucial foundation on which a solid, stable, and permanent peace will be built. But there are those who are consumed not with a passion for peace, but a passion for blood. Last night these dark forces murdered two innocent people: a mother of seven and a father of four. This was in direct response to these calls to intensify violence against Jews and the Jewish state. Since then, there have been even more attacks against Israel. Some might have expected that in the face of this terror Israel would not attend the conference, but despite this violence our quest for peace is unrelenting. We believe that all who desire true peace should unite in condemning without any reservation these unspeakable acts. [end recording]

Let me just add that while walking toward the elevator the prime minister was asked about the 45 minutes allocated to the Palestinians to address the opening session of the conference. His response was: We shall discuss this with the Americans today.

Possible Disarmament Bid Previewed

TA2910101691

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 29 October carries two reports previewing the address Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will deliver at the Madrid peace conference on 31 October.

Writing on page 2, Pe'erli Shahar says that although Shamir will complete the final draft of his address "after additional consultations in Madrid," in his speech "he will stress the following points: Israel's long-standing desire to promote the peace process and to engage in direct negotiations between the parties; Israel's adherence to the Camp David accords, where it gave its consent to grant the residents of the territories autonomy; and the importance of reaching a comprehensive peace in the region, whose results could be impressive in economic and cultural terms."

Military correspondent Avi Bnayahu, writing on pages 1 and 5, adds that "in his speech, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir plans to raise far-reaching proposals in the sphere of disarmament and arms limitation in the Middle East." Citing "security sources," Bnayahu reports that "Shamir may raise a proposal in this vein at the opening stage of the conference as a gesture meant to try to appease President Bush and Secretary Baker, who are determined to expedite the process of ridding the Middle East of strategic weapons." Consequently, "on the eve of the Madrid conference, special Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry teams, together with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] personnel, worked feverishly on proposals in the area of Middle East arms limitation and disarmament."

Bnayahu also notes that "it has been reported that for the moment, Israel has no intention of altering its nuclear policy or of signing the international convention on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons."

In the same report, correspondent Moti Bassok adds from Madrid that "senior Israeli sources in Madrid claimed yesterday that the United States is stretching things because it is confident that Israel cannot allow itself to withdraw from the conference now. The sources pointed that the United States is mistaken because the process is going to go on for a long time and Israel has a very good memory."

Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation

LD2810172791 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The first of the delegations that will take part in the Middle East peace conference has arrived in Madrid. The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, comprising 140 people and led by Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and the Palestinians, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Faysal al-Husayni, arrived about an hour ago at Barajas airport. From there they went to their hotels. [passage omitted]

Delegation Heads Make Statements

JN2910065291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister and chairman of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to the peace conference in Madrid, stressed that we will defend our causes with all our power and available will under these fateful circumstances.

In a statement to the Jordanian media team upon his arrival in Madrid last night, along with the members of the Jordanian- Palestinian joint delegation, Dr. Abu-Jabir expressed the hope that the delegation will succeed in defending our just causes at the peace conference, which he described as historic. He added that he will deliver the joint delegation's speech to the peace conference during Thursday's session. He said that the speech will deal with the basic pillars of Jordanian policy vis-a-vis the achievement of peace.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the advisory council and spokeswoman for the Palestinian side, said that the current situation will have great implications for the Palestinian question and the region. She underlined the importance of Jordanian- Palestinian coordination at the highest level to achieve the desired results.

Members of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides of the joint delegation resumed their meetings following their arrival last night in Madrid. They discussed various issues related to the peace conference.

The Jordanian media team said that the peace conference will open tomorrow morning, and that during the morning session three speeches will be delivered: the first by the Spanish prime minister, the second by the U.S. President, and the third by the Soviet president. During the noon session, two speeches will be delivered; the first by the EC delegate, and the second by the Egyptian foreign minister. During Thursday's session, the conference will hear the speeches of the Israeli prime minister, the chairman of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, the head of the Palestinian side of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, the head of the Lebanese delegation, and the head of the Syrian delegation.

Sources with the Jordanian delegation affirmed that the delegations each will be given 15 minutes on Friday to reply to and comment on the other delegations' speeches.

'Ashrawi Seeks 'Mutual Trust'

LD2810223191 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation arrived before Gorbachev. Their first statements indicate that they have come with an open mind, with optimism, and are prepared to make progress in the peace process. The Jordanians and Palestinians are two different delegations although they will act jointly, according to what the Palestinian leader, Hanan 'Ashrawi, told journalists. She said that she did not expect an immediate agreement, not even after the first bilateral talks. She said that what is important for the Palestinian delegation is to coordinate a strategy with all the Arab delegations so that later an agenda can be set with Israel which will permit the creation of mutual trust and the fixing of a timetable for the Israelis to return land to the Palestinians.

Stresses Striving for Agreement

LD2810234291 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report on interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks, by correspondent Antonio Alonso—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was the first to arrive in Madrid. [passage omitted] Antonio Alonso reports:

[Alonso] [passage omitted] The delegation has not had time to attend to the world's press waiting outside the hotel, held back by strict security. If the Jordanian delegation, led by its Foreign Minister Kamil Abu Jabir refused to say anything until tomorrow, the Palestinian delegation elected as its spokesperson one of its best-known leaders, Hanan 'Ashrawi, who is in the delegation as an adviser, as is Faysal al-Husayni. Hanan 'Ashrawi sidestepped the question as to whether they represent the PLO, saying that they represent those who elected them inside and outside the occupied territories. On the groups opposing the conference, she said:

['Ashrawi in English fading to Spanish translation] We do have opposition. We do have Palestinians who do not want the conference.

We know that there are people who are against it, who do not want the conference, but fortunately the majority want peace and want the conference. It is the same on the Israeli side. There are those who are fighting against the conference, even with violence. But all this shows the need to work resolutely to attain agreements and to put an end to such a painful and volatile situation in the region.

[Alonso] Hanan Ashrawi admitted that she asked for an intensification of the intifadah in the occupied territories because she believes that the intifadah is not violence but the efforts of a people to attain an identity and demand the right to build the Palestinian nation.

On today's fatal attack in which two Jewish settlers were killed on the West Bank, she regretted having received that news on her arrival. She added: I would like to say that we are dedicated to peace. I would like to say that we are here to make progress in peace. What has happened shows that an agreement is urgent. Violence generates violence. The violence of the settlers has created a feeling of insecurity and fear, and action must be taken to put an end to this.

Al-Husayni Optimistic

LD2810181891 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference was the first to arrive in Madrid today from Amman. Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation, said on his arrival in the Spanish capital that his delegation comes with optimism and with an open mind. Regarding the rumored Israeli veto on three members of the Palestinian delegation, Faysal al-Husayni said that all those on the delegation have come. Referring to Arab-Israeli talks, which will begin on Wednesday, Faysal al-Husayni stressed that the correct path was now open.

Egyptian, Lebanese, GCC Officials

LD2810224391 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The majority of the delegations taking part in the Madrid peace conference have already set out for the Spanish capital and some of them have just arrived. Hector Arenas reports from Barajas airport:

[Arenas] The arrival in Madrid this evening of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, who will take part in the opening of the Middle East peace conference, was followed by that of the representatives of Egypt, Lebanon, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], who have just arrived on different flights. They were the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa; his Lebanese counterpart, Faris Buwayz; and the GCC secretary general, 'Abdallah Bishara. They all promised unconditional support for the Palestinian and Jordanian position against the Israeli positions in this conference, which is just about to start.

Egyptian Foreign Minister's Statement

NC2910081691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Report on statements by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to questions from an unidentified MENA correspondent upon Musa's arrival in Madrid on 28 October]

[Text] Madrid, 29 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that Egypt is currently concentrating its attention on ensuring a successful peace process in the Middle East through the Madrid conference, slated to begin Wednesday in the Spanish capital.

Musa said that Egypt's concern for the Palestinian issue, the issue of Jerusalem, and regional stability are direct and principal concerns because Egypt is the largest state in the region and because of its responsibilities on the regional and pan-Arab levels.

Musa's statements were made to a MENA correspondent upon his arrival in Madrid last night. He said that the current talks about the peace process do not mean talks about bilateral peace; it instead means a process based on arranging the situation in the Middle East according to the following factors:

1. Achieving a sound and just solution to the Palestinian problem;

2. Establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement in the Middle East;

3. Working out an agreement with regard to what has to be done;

4. What has to be done, whether in the field of disarmament or any other fields which concern the region as a whole, should be based on equality, justice, and on making no exceptions. In other words, the interests of all parties, and not only one party, should be taken into consideration when making any arrangements.

The foreign minister added that Egypt feels fully responsible concerning the Palestinian issue, or the Middle East cause as a whole, or concerning any future regional arrangements. Musa pointed out that his remarks during the three-day opening session will reflect these ideas. He said he will hold exchanges with participating delegations today.

In his statements, Musa said Egypt is an Arab state and is not a mediator between two sides. Because Egypt is an Arab country which has relations of peace with Israel, however, it can complete these relations for the sake of a sound, peaceful process and also for the sake of working out a peaceful, comprehensive solution.

On his predictions concerning the outcome of the conference, the foreign minister said he believes that there are many factors giving rise to optimism, but an optimism fraught with caution. He said his optimism has been prompted by the fact that there is no alternative to this conference. He added that the process has its own dynamics because delegations started sitting at the negotiating table. It is expected, according to logic, that the conversations eventually will result in some kind of serious negotiations, and, consequently, in a peace process.

Touching on the bilateral negotiations during the second phase of the peace conference, 'Amr Musa said that this step will begin in Madrid immediately after the first phase. He reiterated that Egypt's role in this stage will be the role of "an interested observer." Musa said he believes that this role will support the other Arab sides, but what is required of Egypt mainly depends on what other Arab sides may require and need. He added: We do not propose a plan. But we place ourselves at the disposal of everyone and we invest our experience, role, and contacts in their interest."

On whether it would be possible for the parties participating in the bilateral negotiations to hold a meeting in Cairo, the foreign minister said they are most welcome. Egypt, however, has not made such a proposal, Musa added.

Syrian Delegation Named

AU2910092491 Paris AFP in English 0359 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Madrid, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, which opens here Wednesday, is to be headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian sources said.

The Syrian team, which is scheduled to arrive here on Tuesday, is to include 13 other members. Muwaffaq Allaf, a diplomat with the Syrian mission to the United Nations in Geneva, will lead the negotiations with Israel.

The other members of the Syrian delegation are as follows:

- Zakariya Isma'il, a former diplomat
- Diya'allah al-Fartal, Syrian ambassador to the United Nations
- Nusrat Mallah Haydar, Supreme Court judge and judicial advisor to the delegation
- Muhammad Khadr, ambassador to Britain
- Walid al-Mu'allim, ambassador to the United States
- Majdi al-Jazzar, senior official in the Foreign Ministry
- Ahmad Fathi al-Masri, head of the Syrian mission to the United Nations in Geneva.
- Sabir Falhut, president of the official SANA news agency
- General 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian mission monitoring the armistice line with Israel
- Ahmad Arnus, aide to the foreign minister
- Ruzgallah Ilyas, university professor
- Zuhayr 'Aqqad, ambassador to Spain

PLO Confederation Agreement Reportedly Drafted

JN2910071891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] A Palestinian source in Madrid has stated that a draft political agreement between Jordan and the PLO has been drawn up with the aim of coordinating work at the peace conference and setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He added that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Amman within a few days to sign this agreement with King Husayn. The draft agreement streamlines the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation during the peace conference sessions in Madrid, and considers the Jordanian monarch and the PLO chairman to be the highest authorities in coordinating and directing the joint delegation's activities.

The Palestinian source added that a joint political committee will define the topics and issues to be discussed by both parties in the joint delegation within the conference committees, such as border, security, and water issues. The draft agreement reiterates the call for applying Security Council Resolution 242 to all stages of the solution, in a manner that guarantees their linkage and achieves a comprehensive solution and Palestinian sovereignty over the territories and natural resources as well as political, economic, and other affairs. It also calls for securing international protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories throughout the settlement process.

The draft agreement considers Jerusalem to be an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and what applies to the rest of the occupied territories should apply to Jerusalem as stipulated in the Security Council resolutions. Finally, it calls for solving the problem of refugees in accordance with UN resolutions.

This coordination between Jordan and the PLO is also part of the PLO's coordination with the other Arab countries that neighbor Israel and that are directly concerned with the Madrid conference.

Al-Majali: Negotiating Topics Already Prepared

JN2910110191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 16

[Text] Madrid—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace conference, has expressed his pride in His Majesty King Husayn's noble gesture of seeing off the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation at Amman Airport.

Regarding coordination with the Palestinian delegation, Dr. al-Majali said: We have agreed on everything. The Jordanian and Palestinian committees will meet continuously to coordinate stands regarding general policy, information, and the settlement issue, which all the Arab delegations consider a major problem and which is given first priority, in addition to the issues of water, evacuees, and refugees.

He added: Files have already been prepared concerning the issues of water, the UN Security Council resolutions on the occupied territories, and our interpretation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that the joint delegation would make amendments to them if necessary.

He said that the joint delegation and the Jordanian side have taken all necessary measures to seek the help of all available expertise in and outside Jordan, if necessary.

Sources on Jordanian-Palestinian Differences

PM2510150991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Oct 91 p 3

['Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Palestinian Sources Say: Washington Offered Damascus Return of Golan Without Linking it to Region's Issues"]

[Text] Damascus—Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement determines the authorities to which the joint delegation to the peace conference can refer. They cited the existence of two points of disagreement between the two sides, saying that efforts were under way to surmount them. The two points are: Linking the

Arab-Israeli talks and the Palestinian-Israeli talks, and the date of participation in the multilateral talks on regional issues.

The sources pointed out that the Jordanian side expresses reservations about the Arab-Israeli talks, their results, and the Palestinian-Israeli talks, and maintains its commitment to the two-track principle proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The sources added that Jordan agreed to participate in the multilateral talks in accordance with the timetable proposed in the text of the invitation to the Madrid conference, that is, 14 days after the conference begins. But the Palestinian side demands that this participation be deferred until tangible progress is made with regard to withdrawal and Palestinian rights.

The Palestinian sources added that with regard to the two last points, there is total Palestinian-Syrian congruence which enjoys total Lebanese approval. The sources believe that this will encourage Jordan to adopt the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian position, despite the pressures to which it is exposed.

The sources pointed out that Secretary Baker tried to change the Syrian position on the multilateral talks issue by proposing the formula of "starting to prepare for talks 14 days after the conference begins," but Damascus rejected it. Then he proposed the formula of "starting the talks with whoever agrees," so the Syrian side announced its reservations about that proposal.

The sources added that the Syrian-Lebanese agreement will thwart any attempt to isolate Syria in the peace conference and force it to accept a separate settlement. They quoted President al-Asad as saying to the Palestinian delegation accompanying 'Arafat to Damascus that there are two things that cannot be abandoned or neglected at the conference, namely the recovery of the occupied land in full and the Palestinian people's national rights. If the conference fails to achieve these two aims and moves in other directions, Syria and the Palestinians will regard it as finished.

The sources went on to say that in the talks with the Palestinians al-Asad broached the possibility of the conference's failure. He said: "Syria can live without the Golan for 100 years and withstand any economic sanctions or any blockade, but a strategy must be drawn up to support the steadfastness of the occupied territories and prevent their Judaization—which requires real Arab solidarity on the basis of steadfastness."

Al-Asad stressed Syria's rejection of a separate solution and said: "The sacrifices made by Syria in the Golan vastly exceed the value of the Golan to it; they are very great."

The sources pointed out that the United States offered Syria the return of the Golan Heights in full if Damascus ceases to link this to the region's issues. The sources said that the Syrian and Palestinian sides are agreed that Israel's aim at the conference is to control Arab resources in order to exploit the waters, capital, and cheap labor to set up regional projects that suit the IMF's vision of the Middle East's future and do not serve the national interests of the region's peoples.

'Urayqat Sees Madrid as 'Battle,' Not Talks

JN2710095991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 91 pp 22, 16

[By Musa Hawamidah]

[Excerpts] Responding to Yitzhaq Shamir's statements, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, has said: We cannot help those who insist on deceiving themselves; the entire world knows who the leadership of the Palestinian people is and that this historical leadership has formed the Palestinian delegation.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. 'Urayqat added that Shamir's reaction reveals his government's basic line: that it is going to Madrid for reasons that have nothing to do with peace. He stated: I believe that we will hear incredible things when the conference opens and when we listen to the address of the Israeli delegation. We will listen to endless insolent remarks, beginning with an allegation that Jordan is Palestine and ending with an assertion of the alleged historical claim to Palestine and the lies about settlement. He said that in their speech, the Israelis will insist on settlement. He noted that to expose the Israeli lies, the counteroffensive of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in particular, and of the Arabs in general, should proceed from such brazen remarks, which constitute the basis of Israel's political movement. He said that this is a chance that we must exploit. [passage omitted]

Commenting on his expectations about the achievement of the minimum Palestinian conditions at the conference, Dr. 'Urayqat said: We are about to enter a genuinely new stage, and we must say from the beginning that we are not going to negotiations but to a battle. I am saying this because Israel has no desire at all for peace or even a settlement. Thus, we should understand that Israel is going to the conference not because it has a desire for peace, but for reasons related to the new international relations. [passage omitted]

[Hawamidah] The Palestinians ask: Will we eventually get anything and, if so, how?

['Urayqat] This depends on a set of factors. To be frank with you, our position is difficult. As I have said, it is a heavy artillery engagement. I want to stress that the trust I shoulder is much heavier than you think. I feel that the blood of our people's martyrs, and the sacrifices, displacement, injustice, incarceration, demolition of houses, suffering, and everything that our people have passed through during the last 90 years, blend together to constitute a very heavy trust.

Our struggle has never been for improving our living conditions. Our struggle is for our legitimate national rights and the right to repatriation and the establishment of our independent state under the PLO. These are our objectives.

As for what we can achieve, this depends on a number of factors. The first of these is the Arab world. At least, the Arab states should be aware of the historical juncture through which we are passing and which affects all of us from the Ocean to the Gulf, and our next generations as well. Our minimal demand is an Arab strategy based on a comprehensive solution. Therefore, discussing any details on normalization, confidence-building measures, or any such things will be shots directed at us in the battle.

Since the nucleus of the solution and the conflict in the region is the Palestine question, the Palestine question should be addressed first, after which other details can be discussed, so that a comprehensive solution can be reached.

As for the other factor, our internal front, it must be coherent and we must safeguard our national unity. Any rift means our loss at the Madrid conference before it even starts.

[Hawamidah] But are there attempts to cancel the opposing opinion instead of using the opposition as a card of influence?

['Urayqat] Our people need diversity as much as they need agreement. We disagree over details and agree on long-term objectives. I firmly say that those who object to going to Madrid do so out of fear, concern, and to avoid traps. Those who support going to Madrid proceed from concern about not excluding the Palestine question and to avoid falling into traps.

If we maintain the cohesion of our internal front, safeguard the intifadah and contribute to its promotion, and strongly strike at those who might try to foment sedition here or there, then all these factors will constitute the standpoint of the Palestinian delegation, which is going to a battle, not negotiations. [passage omitted]

Remarks on PLO Backing Clarified

JN2710122791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct p 15

[Text] Amman—Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation that will participate in the peace conference, said that after reviewing statements made by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat with regard to "the delegation representation of the PLO, which he made to the American Cable News Network, we found that they do not diverge from the Palestinian commitment."

He added that the Israeli delegation has not filed any protests concerning this subject. We would like to stress that if the Zionist enemy protests, we will answer it.

Responding to a query from AL-DUSTUR on the question of the formation of committees at the conference, he said the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations discussed this subject yesterday and agreed on their formation. He declined, however, to specify these committees.

Dr. al-Khatib stressed that both the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations will deliver speeches at the conference. The two speeches will be equal and will deal with various problems relating to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Ja'bari: Delegation Not Alternative to PLO

JN2710103391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Madrid conference, said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's participation in the peace conference will speed up an Israeli decision to abandon the peace process.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that the Palestinian negotiating delegation has not made any hint of a warning that it will withdraw from the conference. We are going to establish a just and comprehensive peace, to extract the legitimate rights, and to end the occupation, he added.

He said that the Damascus meetings, which grouped together the foreign ministers of the frontline states and observers from the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, were a step toward convening an Arab summit before the peace conference in an effort to reach a unified stance that will advance the peaceful process to settle the Palestine question.

He stated that the Palestinian negotiating delegation will not be an alternative to the PLO. Dr. al-Ja'bari added that Israel is trying to sow discord inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory; however, the attention of our people is sure to abort this conspiracy.

Commenting on the mechanism of the peace conference, he said that it has been decided to hold the conference itself for three days and devote the fourth day to bilateral negotiations. The moment these negotiations are reached, he added, Israel will be forced to abandon the arena because it will find itself besieged.

The member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation said that there are red lines for the United States in its support for Israel that it must not cross as long as it is trying to establish a just and comprehensive peace. Dr. al-Ja'bari raised the question that if the United States now has the first say in the world, why does it not maintain its credibility, be just, and employ pressure on the Israeli Government to resolve the Palestine question in accordance with international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

With regard to the Palestinian delegation's position toward the question of Jerusalem, he stressed that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. The delegation will try to discuss all issues during the first stages of the conference, he added, noting that the Palestinian delegation cannot overstep the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] or relinquish any Palestinian rights.

Responding to a question, he said that if Israel is working to abort the peace conference, then the Palestinian delegation will surprise it. They must know that we well understand the Israeli mentality through our dealings with it for many years.

The member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation expressed support for the resolutions adopted by the last two PNC sessions. He said that the Palestinian leadership is pushing for an escalation of the intifadah and not to trade putting an end to it for a halt in the construction of settlements.

He said that there is no difference between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and stressed that His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian officials give maximum support for the Palestinian delegation's efforts.

He added that yesterday's meetings with the Jordanians were held only to achieve complete and equal coordination in drawing the initial lines, since there is integrated coordination at the highest level between Jordan and the PLO.

Arab League Chief Views Talks Prospects

LD2810220491 Lisbon RDP Commercial Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Today in Lisbon Arab representatives expressed some reservations about the outcome of the Madrid conference. The secretary general of the Arab League, who was received by President Mario Soares, indicated his skepticism and said he does not expect spectacular results. He did, however, express hope regarding a more active role for Portugal in relations between Europeans and Arabs when Portugal assumes the EEC presidency. Jose Augusto Figueiro:

[Figueiro] The meeting between the Egyptian 'Abd-al-Majid and President Mario Soares broached above all the Middle East peace process. The Arab League secretary general said that the Arab countries are not expecting spectacular results from the Madrid conference. However, he hopes the wishes of the league will be answered by Israel. He believes the process will be long and difficult.

He also spoke of the meeting between Arab and European parliamentarians, which occurred over the weekend in Lisbon and ended today. He expressed confidence in the active role of the EEC for the success of the conference. Obviously, Portugal's role was stressed, especially in view of the fact that Portugal will assume the EEC presidency within a few months. He described the 40-minute meeting with Soares as positive.

Gonzalez Meets Jordanian-Palestinian Representatives

LD2910103791 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has a full working agenda today. [passage omitted] Early this morning Gonzalez met representatives of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, led by Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu Jabir, and Palestinian Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. During this meeting, also attended by Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, the prime minister exchanged views on the Middle East peace conference, which opens tomorrow in Madrid. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministers Coordinate for Madrid Talks

NC2610161891 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 26 (AFP)—Foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet in Saudi Arabia Sunday to coordinate stands on a Middle East peace conference due to open Wednesday in Spain.

Official media in the region said the ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would hold the one-day emergency talks in Riyadh, where the 10-year-old council is based.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bishrah is due to fly to Madrid on Monday to participate in Wednesday's conference as an observer.

"The ministers will discuss coordination of their positions towards the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid," GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs, Sayf Ibn-Hashil al-Mankari, told the WAM News Agency.

He said coordination would also cover multilateral talks concerning water, economic development, disarmament and environment due to start 10 days after bilateral talks get under way.

Ministerial Council Communique

LD2710183991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Oct (SPA)—The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) welcomed the convening of the peace conference due to be held in the Spanish capital Madrid next Wednesday. This was stated in a communique issued following an extraordinary meeting held today by their highness and excellency the

foreign ministers of the GCC countries at the Council General Secretariat council in Riyadh.

Here is the text of the communique:

Press Statement

The Ministerial Council held its 16th extraordinary session on Sunday, 27 October 1991 at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Katir, foreign minister of the State of Qatar and current chairman of the Council. In attendance were: His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates; Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah; Saudi Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman; and Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait.

The council studied new developments in the Arab region and the outcome of the peace efforts made by the international community, in particular by the United States, to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue in implementation of the (UN) Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the principles of international legitimacy.

As an extension of the persistent efforts being made by the GCC to achieve peace, security, and stability in the Middle East region, the council welcomes the convening of the peace conference due to be held in Madrid on 30 October 1991, and looks forward with optimism to this historic conference. The council previously announced in its statement of 11 May 1991 its decision to participate in the first stage of the conference, whereby the GCC secretary general will represent the council countries at that stage as an observer. The council countries will also participate in multilateral meetings.

The council expressed its utmost satisfaction at the Arab coordination which exists under these circumstances and its great hope that this coordination will continue, not only prior to the conference but during all its stages.

Conference on Boycotting Israel Postponed

JN2710171391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] It was announced in Damascus that the meeting of the 65th conference for boycotting the Zionist entity has been postponed. The meeting was scheduled to start in Damascus yesterday.

Saudi Arabia exerted feverish efforts to postpone the conference in order that it not interfere with the settlement conference, scheduled to open in Madrid on 30 October, in a gesture of further appeasement and submission to the Zionist entity and the United States and an expression of readiness to violate the rules and principles of the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Claims Responsibility for Bus Attack

NC2910083691 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a radical, Syrian-based group, on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a West Bank bus attack that killed two Israelis and injured five.

"One of our units active in the (Israeli) occupied territories launched an attack on a bus carrying Zionist settlers on the road between Nablus and Ramallah," the PFLP said in a statement to AFP.

"The operation left several dead and wounded among the settlers and the members of the unit returned from the mission safely."

'Ashrawi Interviewed on Madrid Conference

JN2810195991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1857 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Advisory Council and official spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, by Rami Khuri from a "special edition" of the "Encounter" program, in Amman, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Good evening, and welcome to this special edition of "Encounter". We're very pleased to have as our guest tonight Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi from the University of Bi'r Zayt, professor of English literature, and more recently—in the last few years—a person who has been one of the most articulate and thoughtful spokespersons for the Palestinian Arab cause. Dr. 'Ashrawi is also the official spokesperson of the Palestinian team at the Madrid peace conference. Hanan, welcome to "Encounter" and welcome to Amman.

['Ashrawi] Thank you very much. It's good to be here.

[Khuri] Nice to have you again. There are a lot of things happening this week: The beginning of the Madrid peace talks; it is the culmination of a political process that some people say has been going on for six, seven months since after the Gulf war. But we would say it has been going on since 1896, the birth of political Zionism. Why are we going to Madrid? What is the Palestinian team hoping to achieve at Madrid and what are the circumstances that now have taken us to Madrid?

['Ashrawi] That's not an easy question to answer—why are we going to Madrid—because you need the whole rationale and the whole history. But you are right. This is the result of a cumulative process and all sorts of developments, whether internal Palestinian, or whether regional, or international, or even global, if you will. It seems to me that since the Gulf crisis and the end of the Gulf war, all factors started working together in order to

lead to this type of peace offensive, let us say, or peacemaking. First of all, there was a need; the United States felt a need to establish some sort of stability or peace in the region, in order also to play the role of peacemaker, not just to win the war but to win the peace. At the same time, there was an activation of international institutions—the organizations like the United Nations. And the charge of double standards was heard loud and clear all over the world. There is a new respect, supposedly for international legitimacy, and the Palestinian case is one which is firmly based on international legitimacy. At the same time, we felt that in terms of local or internal Palestinian politics that there was an attempt to isolate the Palestinian leadership—the legitimate spokespeople, interlocutors, the PLO, and that the Gulf crisis has in many ways presented new terms of reference, so that it was up to the Palestinians to understand in many ways all the new imperatives, whether internal or external, and to deal with new realities, a new discourse, a new objective that are not necessarily based on pure motive or altruistic motives but rather some of them on self-interest. So, at viewing the PNC [Palestine National Council] resolutions of 1988, which firmly set the Palestinian struggle on the course of a peace offensive, a peace initiative, and in view of the PNC resolutions of the 20th congress in Algiers, the [PLO] Central Council took the decision that the Palestinians should go to the peace conference. Now, we are going not expecting to achieve miracles, but at the same time, we are going with open hearts and minds. We are going to do our best to make it work.

[Khuri] Isn't this really the culmination of a diplomatic process that started really in '73-74 at the PNC meetings in Cairo and Algiers, when, for the first time, the Palestinian national leadership used terms such as establishing a national authority in any liberated part of Palestine. In other words, we came to the conclusion that the partition of Palestine was perhaps inevitable as long as in the Palestinian part of Palestine the Palestinians had their full national rights.

['Ashrawi] First of all, this was firmly based on the need for the recognition of the Palestinian national identity, and hence national rights, and the right to self-determination. It was based on a solid understanding of developments in the region as well, and realities in the region. It was based on a comprehension that maximalist positions—all or nothing—are not going to work, and that there are factors outside the region that are more than just justice or the rightness of the cause that are at work here, and you have to deal with them. And so, there is a gradual revolution, what we call the cumulative process of Palestinian political discourse that resulted in, first of all, recognizing the fact that there are two states, or there is the possibility of two states for two peoples, and that the military conflict is not necessarily going to solve any problems in the region, and that perhaps the political solution is the only way in which to deal with the crisis, with the conflict.

[Khuri] Because there are many critics who say: Well, the Palestinians and the Arabs as a whole are going to Madrid in a weak position, and they're not going to get what they want. It seems to me that the opposite is true: that, especially after the intifadah and the extraordinary international support that the Palestinian cause received, there is now a new sense of maturity, and pragmatisim, and realism, and self-confidence on the part of the Palestinians that takes the Palestinians to Madrid with much more certitude and confidence than, perhaps, existed before.

['Ashrawi] Yes, well it is a mixture of both. It is true you can look at objective conditions and say the Palestinians are relatively weak because, of course, we don't have arms, we don't have natural resources, we don't have money, we don't even have big power allies, and the conditions around us are not conducive to a just peace in many ways. And this is the basis on which many people feel very skeptical about the process. But at the same time, this is, as you said, a new phase in our own political thinking on this course. Palestinian self-confidence has never wavered. Our firm conviction in our rights and the necessity of implementing and practicing these rights has never wavered. So we have decided that instead of being on the receiving end constantly, instead of being passive, instead of allowing others to take decisions pertaining to our lives, instead of taking the positions that either you give me all my demands or I will sit back or I am going to isolate myself, we have taken the offensive in many ways. We have to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and we have to intervene ourselves, and we have to participate ourselves, and we have to speak for ourselves on our own behalf. And I think this is again significant, because for the first time in our history we see that the Palestinians, as a national identity, are participating in an international peace conference with an international recognition of this identity. We are speaking for ourselves, we are narrating our own story, and I think this is extremely significant as such. But also as you said, the intifadah, again which is the result of accumulative process of struggle, is a source of strength and self-confidence.

To me, to be pragmatic, to make the necessary historical compromise, you have to have self-confidence, you have to be strong, otherwise, you can't take maximalist positions and an entrenched position as a result of insecurity. And I think self-confidence and strength allowed us to make this necessary leap, qualitative leap, into history, and to approach the end of the 20th century with a sense of dedication, and sense of purpose, and a sense of strategy.

[Khuri] Your were sent off from Jerusalem the other day with a rousing, very emotional public display of support from Palestinians. What is your assessment of the grassroots settlement both in the state of Palestine, in the occupied territories, and throughout the Palestinian diaspora. Are you convinced that there is a majority of Palestinian support for what the Palestinian leadership is doing now?

['Ashrawi] I think so, I think there is an overwhelming majority in support of our entering the peace process for many reasons. Many of them think we cannot afford not to, many of them think that we can have some results. But on the whole, there is a certain amount of healthy skepticism among the Palestinians, which I think is quite appropriate, because you cannot expect, given all conditions, and preconditions, and the constraints, within which we are entering this process, you cannot expect to have ideal conditions or all your rights immediately granted or implemented. So, like any other society, we are pluralistic politically, we do have diversity of opinions but I think we have a tremendous sense of maturity and responsibility in dealing with differences of opinion. There are people who think that we shouldn't go, but at the same time, who feel that now the decision has taken, was taken democratically, through our own structures, Palestinian structures, that we should go with the strongest case, and we should present our case with confidence again and try to get whatever we can.

There is, among the Palestinians frankly, really a yearning for peace. After all, we did present the peace initiative of November 1988. There is a feeling that we have to come to grips with reality, that we cannot escape whatever is painful. Now that the tables have turned, it is Israel who is playing the head in the sand, the ostrich game. And it is the Palestinians who say we will take the offensive, we will go out, we will speak. Even in terms of speaking to Israelis, we are doing it, they are running away from us.

But, given all that, I think we do have to watch out for two extreme positions. The first position is the position that says the situation is so bad under occupation, life is so painful, and the occupation is so brutal, and conditions around us are so hostile and adverse, that anything, any change, is bound to be for the better. Now, I am worried about that position.

[Khuri] That is the peace at any price.

['Ashrawi] Yes, because that allows you to compromise rights and principles. And then, you wouldn't be able to start planning a strategy on the basis of these rights.

The other position is that which says conditions are so adverse, and everything is so negative that I am going to sort of place myself in political hibernation, or isolate myself, and withdraw from reality for a while, and not engage the world in what it is doing. And we know that we are living in a very mobile reality, and you cannot afford to be static, you cannot afford to be isolated, and therefore, you are bound to be left behind. There is a course of history on the move here, there are factors that are dynamic and moving, and shaping your own reality. If you are not part of it, then you're going to be the victim of it. And I think both extremes are counterproductive. But, fortunately, among the Palestinian public as a whole, not just the Palestinian leadership, there is a sense of recognition, that we have to take part in coming to grips with our reality, not as victims, and not as entrenched rejectionists, but as people who are shaping the course of their own destiny. And after all, this is self-determination, isn't it?

[Khuri] And also the international climate, it would seem to me, is very, very positive for the Palestinians. Because, around the world you're getting a focus on human rights, on international legitimacy, on implementing UN resolutions, on democracy, and the Palestinians in the Middle East are squarely in the middle of all those dynamics, that they demand their human rights, they have international resolutions that must be implemented. They need to....[changes thought] They have a certain process of democracy at work within the Palestinian leadership. So, an international legitimacy is at the core of their rights which are recognized, self-determination is recognized by, virtually, the whole world, except, for perhaps, the Likud part of the Israeli Government.

So, it seems to me that we are square in the middle of this process of historical change that is sweeping the world.

['Ashrawi] Yes, well these are the terms of reference for this new era in world history. And these terms of reference, actually, we have been calling for, for a long time. Well, human rights now are a basis for taking political positions where democracy is a criterion for evaluating economic and political relationships, and so on.

So, we have been, through the intifadah, and through the political process as a whole, we have been actually at the forefront, and we have articulated a program which was quite forward-looking. Unfortunately, we weren't heard, because at that time, the bipolar world was based on a balance of power and a balance of fear, and so on. And in that confrontation, of course, Israel has the power. And in military terms, Israel lays the ground rules. But now that the terms have shifted, terms of reference as to values, values that are global, and that are cross cultural, and perhaps that go beyond the nation state and so on. Then, we are, as you said solidly, where we belong [word indistinct].

[Khuri] When the terms of reference of the Arab-Israeli conflict were military, the Israelis obviously had the advantage....

['Ashrawi, interrupting] The upper hand.

[Khuri] As the terms of reference become political and moral, we would probably have the advantage, because we have the list of around 75 UN resolutions that we can put on the table.

['Ashrawi] Exactly.

[Khuri] Tell us about your experience in the pre-negotiations. You were intimately involved in the talks with James Baker and the American team for the last six or seven months. What did you get from that experience

in terms, particularly, of your assessment of the credibility and the impartiality of the Americans? Are they credible third-party mediators? Are they fair?

['Ashrawi] Well, to be absolutely objective, I think that the Americans, the American Administration is serious about this process. It is serious that it does want to bring about peace and stability to the region. It cannot afford to have a volatile Middle East anymore. It cannot afford to win a war and lose the peace. And at the same time, there are emerging, again, fluid dynamics in the whole world, global politics that are based on economics, that are based on environment, that are based on an interconnected set of interdependencies, if you would. They cannot afford to have the Middle East as the powder keg which is going to explode; in addition to other domestic politics in the United States, in addition to debts to be paid to allies, Arab allies, in addition to the fact that Israel is no longer a strategic ally of the West, and, in some cases, is a strategic liability, and the constant drain on American resources. And Israel has to come to grips with the fact that it cannot anymore consider itself an extension of the West, an imposition in the Middle East, but has to realize that if it is to have a real place in the region, it has to come to terms with the countries of the region, if it is going to be part of the regional development, Europe 1992, Japan emerging and so on. So, given all these things, I think the Americans, the American Administration is extremely serious about seeing concrete steps, concrete results. And of course, they approach it from their own sense that any process is liable to generate its own momentum, and therefore create different conditions, affect the conditions around us. I don't think that their motives are altruistic either. And I think that their long-term special relationship with Israel has not shifted in essence, but has shifted in emphasis and in appearance, like for the first time we have an administration that is willing to face Israeli pressure, the lobby group pressure in Congress, and to tell Israel no, for a change. This is significant if it is a symptom of what is coming ahead. If it is an isolated act, it is not. But still, the vestiges of the special or preferential treatment that Israel got from the U.S. have maintained themselves in the course of setting up this process.

[Khuri] What I call the junk morality of the American Government vis-a-vis the Middle East, the double standards?

['Ashrawi] The double standards, and the fact that they felt that had to get Israel to the negotiating table. So they ended up giving Israel all the carrots, and we ended up with the sticks.

[Khuri] But, you feel that the pre-negotiations that took place, that are now taking us to Madrid, have been more in favor of the Israelis than the Arabs?

['Ashrawi] Well, in terms of the conditions of the conference, you can say yes, because they have adopted and absorbed some of the constraints, and pre-conditions that Israel imposed.

[Khuri] Particularly vis-a-vis the Palestinian representation.

['Ashrawi] The exclusion of the PLO, or the PLO taking a back-stage role temporarily, the East Jerusalem representation, and so on, which are violations of our sovereignty and violations of the integrity of the process, of the ground rules, of any negotiating game. But, at the same time, I think that within the letter of assurances that we got, for the first time we see that the United States is trying seriously to overcome obstacles, and not to apply in a mechanistic way, or superimpose, in a mechanistic way, American policy as it stands without dealing with it in a more versatile manner. Add to that the fact that for the first time we see a political predisposition, a will to deal with Israel firmly, and a new tendency to deal with the Palestinians on a less unjust, or a more equitable basis, is a step in the right direction. And I think they do understand that the Palestinians are perfectly within their rights, in terms of international legitimacy, that we can challenge the moral high grounds that the United States try to maintain in the Gulf war and the Gulf crisis. And that there is a genuine impetus, a genuine move among the Palestinians for peace, but not again peace at any price.

[Khuri] But the Palestinians have been willing to make the procedural concessions or compromises to get to Madrid so that the substantive issues can be hammered out in a way that's fair to both sides.

['Ashrawi] Exactly. I do understand that form and substance cannot be divided, and that whatever precedural issues are involved definitely will affect the substance. That's why we, in our letter of assurances, we got some, I wouldn't say guarantees, but some assurances on the substance, because we did have to make some procedural compromises. In terms of the transitional phases, for instance, in terms of Palestinian control or exercise of authority over matters or decisions that affect our lives and fate, whether they're economic or political, in terms of the firmly-based process on international legitimacy, which is 242, 338 in this case. Of course, it is partial. We would like to see it on all pertinent resolutions, but we don't have that. And in terms of nothing prejudicing or prejudging the outcome.

[Khuri] So, you're confident the Palestinian side is confident that going into the negotiations to talk initially about the transitional arrangement of self-government or something of that nature is not going to be a dead-end process, that you are not going to just get autonomy for the Palestinians, and the Israelis say that's it, you won't get any more.

['Ashrawi] There are assurances that these are transitional phases and that we will move to final-status or permanent-status talks three years or at the beginning of the third year from the opening. But, you have to understand that things are not as smooth. I mean we don't want to raise unrealistic expectations, that we start with double handicaps. We're doubly handicapped first

with the occupation itself, and this is something extremely painful. They have imposed on us a negotiating process, where we, as people under occupation, are negotiating with our occupier under extremely difficult conditions where the occupiers hold a whole defenseless population hostage, and Israel has not, in any way, demonstrated its willingness to show positive intentions or a commitment to peace by some confidence-building measures, by stopping some of the illegal measures that it is committing against the Palestinian population. How can you negotiate when you are under censorship? You could be imprisoned, detained, interrogated, deported at any time. How can you negotiate when you know settlements are being built and the land is being stolen and resources are being stolen right before your very eyes? So, that's one handicap.

The other handicap is again that the process itself has absorbed some of the Israeli preconditions. And, therefore, we feel that within the process itself, we have to resort to other areas of strength. We talk about the moral right, international legitimacy, not in a general, vague, or abstract way, but in terms of U.N. resolutons, and international law, and international humanitarian law, like the fourth Geneva Conventions, the Hague Accords and so on, and also in terms of the position of Arab solidarity, and Arab coordination. I feel that these are two areas of strength in addition to the inherent sense of confidence and justice of our cause that would help redress the disequilibrium that we see from the beginning of this....

[Khuri, interrupting] Despite these extraordinary handicaps, we're still going to the negotiations because we know we are right.

['Ashrawi] We are right, we have to make our case, we have to present our case, and we have to fight. This is a political struggle, and it's a tremendous challenge. We've won already one major battle; the Palestinian participation is there as a distinct identity. The Palestinians are speaking for themselves. We are being addressed. This is very important. Again we are working with the other countries. And I think that there have been tremendous achievements with the Jordanian Government in terms of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the political coordination and overall planning with the Egyptians in our recent meetings who have expressed a willingness to support both the precedural and strategic as well as even the technical needs of the Palestinian team, and in the resolutions of the conference of the five Arab foreign ministers.

[Khuri] So, you are not worried that the Palestinians may get abandoned half way through the negotiations by the other Arabs or by the international community?

['Ashrawi] No. I certainly am not worried, not just on the basis of Arab coordination and a position of principle, but because I feel that everybody understands that there can be no genuine peace in the region without the Palestinians. We always say that we may not have much positive power, we have negative power. This is a cause of instability. If you do not deal equitably with the Palestinian issue, you will never have stability in the region, and the repercussions have a ripple effect.

[Khuri] I was tickled the other day when I heard James Baker on television talking about the bus is coming by and do not miss the bus. I remembered Brzezinski and Shultz used to tell us that you are going to miss the boat and the train is pulling out of the station. And now Baker is talking about a bus. It is like these are ministers of transport rather than secretaries of state, but the point is we did not miss the boat or the bus or the train, we are on board, we are there as a Palestinian delegation and joint Arab team altogether. The question now is, of course, where is this vehicle heading?

['Ashrawi] Exactly. Well, actually we did take a bus from Jerusalem, and there were lots of talks going around: Is this the Baker bus? And we are flying with a Jordanian team by plane, so the ministers of transport still missed one vehicle. I think, first of all, we need the solid ground to fly off, to be able to go to Madrid. To take the plane, or the bus, or the train, or the boat, you need to have solid grounds. Our most immediate solid ground is the intifadah, the Palestinian people's conviction, the Palestinian people's absolute certainty of their rights, of their cause, the tremendous sense of dedication, and the intifadah as a symptom, as an expression of Palestinian legitimacy and national, moral, and political strength. This is very important. We also have the Arab coordination, we also have, as we said, international legitimacy. So, once you feel that you are on sure grounds, then you can move ahead, and you know that going to a conference does not necessarily mean that you are going to sign away anything or make agreements unless there are agreements that do not negate your own rights. We have to go there, we have to present our case strongly, we have to engage, and engaging is not necessarily in the conference itself. You present your political case in the conference, you engage in the negotiations, and you have to do it with force, with strength, and with a real dedication to your own peace program. You see, we have an advantage over Israel because Israel is going there to abort or to sabotage the process. It is not in any way interested in maintaining the process or in entering into any negotiating activity that would necessitate land for peace. And it is the Palestinians and the Arab side who are actually committed, in terms of our own political as well as emotional ethos, to enter into a process that would lead to the termination of the cycle of violence in our region, and that would bring about recognition of our rights.

This does not necessarily mean that we are going to get all our rights overnight, but it just means that we have started a step in the right direction. We are part of the new discourse, the new language, we part of the new realities, we are part of the new terms of reference, and we are making our case heard, and we are making our presence felt.

[Khuri] Hanan, we have time just for one more question. You have talked about political positions and aspirations, tell us, and tell the Israelis as well, and the Palestinians and the Americans too, what are your personal feelings? You are a mother of two children, you have a husband, you have a professional career, you have a lot of friends in Palestine, you lived under occupation. What are your personal feelings as you head off to Madrid now? What can we look forward to 10 or 20 years from now?

['Ashrawi] I tell you that if you had asked me that on the bus, I would not have been able to answer because we were all in tears. It is a mixture of recognizing the awe of the moment, the dread of the moment, if you wish, that this is a significant, historical moment. It is a mixture of pain, also because we know that we are leaving behind a people under occupation, and a people who are hostage in many ways. It is a mixture of anger, also, at the fact that we were made to accept conditions that are not entirely fair. But at the same time, there was tremendous pride, and a real sense of challenge and excitement. We are going there, and we are going to confront and engage on all fronts, and we are going to do it. Personally, I think, we have paid a very heavy price. My daughters, my family life, and my husband, they do support everything I do intellectually and politically—they are 14 and 10 so they are a bit young to do all the analysis. But emotionally they need their mother there, and they cannot understand why we have been working for peace for so long. As my daughter, Amal, said, you know, you tell the world the truth and yet we are not free. And I said in our case the truth is not enough to set you free, you have got to work very hard to be free. Or Zaynah, who wanted to know how long it would take to finish the conference. She said once we start the conference, are we going to be free, then? And I said no it will take a long time. She said: Okay, you go there and you put up a good fight, and if it takes a long time, tell them I will come and take over. But I hope it will not take that long. We have paid a heavy price for the lack of peace, and, unfortunately, we are being made to pay the price for the pursuit of peace itself.

[Khuri] But we will be free, and the Israelis will be free as well.

['Ashrawi] Exactly, now there is something to be gained for everybody. And this shortsightedness, this blindness to the historical opportunity that has afforded everybody in the region right now, is extremely dangerous. I think peace is too valuable to be left to the discretion or entrenchment of the ilks of Shamir and people who are ideologically bound, who are wearing their blinders and leading the whole area into disaster. It is the Israeli people who have to tell Shamir that he is playing with their own fate, and he is tempting fate. And I think it is the Palestinians who have to make it clear that we have opened up new vistas and horizons, and that we do it with confidence, but at the same time, that if it fails, it is not going to be the last attempt; that if it fails, we still have the strength and the determination to go on.

[Khuri] Well, let us hope everybody does their best and we achieve the peace and justice that we all want. Hanan 'Ashrawi, thank you very much for being with us and good luck in Madrid and beyond.

['Ashrawi] Thank you, Rami.

[Khuri] Thank you.

'Arafat Discusses East Jerusalem, Madrid Talks

LD2910111991 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis by correspondent Jeremy Paxman in London on 28 October; from the "Newsnight" program—live]

[Text] [Paxman] Yasir 'Arafat now joins us from Tunis. Good evening Mr. 'Arafat.

['Arafat] Good evening.

[Paxman] Mr. 'Arafat, is a peace settlement possible, in your judgment, as long as East Jerusalem is under Israeli control?
['Arafat] It will depend on how the co-chairman will deal with this stubborn Mr. (Noel Shabbair) who used to say no to everything, no for international legality, no for peace initiatives.

[Paxman] You must have a position. In your judgment, is a peace settlement possible as long as the Israelis remain in control of East Jerusalem?
['Arafat] You see, East Jerusalem, according to United Nations Resolution 242, is unoccupied territory. This had been declared not only by me, by the EC, by the co-chairman, by the permanent members of the security council, by everybody except the Israelis.

[Paxman] So I ask you again, is a peace settlement possible as long as the Israelis remain in control of East Jerusalem?
['Arafat] They have to understand that East Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine.

[Paxman] So, are you saying then that a peace settlement is nor possible as long as the Israelis remain in control of East Jerusalem?
['Arafat] You know that this cannot be over the international legality and the United Nation resolutions. They are not over United Nation resolutions.

[Paxman] Mr. 'Arafat, who is in charge of the Palestinian delegation to Madrid?
['Arafat] Dr. Haydar.

[Paxman] And what is you relationship with Dr. Haydar?
['Arafat] He's an old friend to me.

[Paxman] Are you in contact with him frequently?
['Arafat] Between now and then. But for the last period I haven't any contact with him.

[Paxman] So this delegation in Madrid, does it have the power to speak for the PLO?

['Arafat] You see, every Palestinian, according to our charter, inside or outside the occupied territories, is a member in the PLO.

[Paxman] It doesn't mean that any Palestinian can make agreements in the name of the PLO though, does it?

['Arafat] You see, you are now asking for my approval on an agreement?

[Paxman] Yes.

['Arafat] It's a contradiction to what Mr. Shamir and others are saying; no for the PLO. Why you are asking my approval now? But for the approval I have full confidence with this delegation. I am not Mr. Shamir who has no confidence with his foreign minister. Because he is from the Sephardim—complete discrimination, yes?

[Paxman] Mr. 'Arafat, two Israeli settlers were shot dead this evening on the West Bank. Five were wounded. What kind of start is that to a peace conference?

['Arafat] You see, from the beginning we said that violence, oppression, crimes, react violence. You have to remember how many massacres had been done against our children, our women, our masses, how many crimes against our holy sacred Christian and Muslim places. More than 92,000 had been injured. Among them 7,000 cases of miscarriages, 6,000 disabled, besides, 98,000 still in the concentration camps and in the Israeli prisons.

[Paxman] So you don't disapprove of this attack?

['Arafat] What do you expect from these continuous crimes from the Israeli military occupation?

[Paxman] I'm really trying to ask you, Mr. 'Arafat whether, at this time, you approve of this attack?

['Arafat] You see, I still know, according to the Executive Committee, we are not to use weapons within our intifadah. But in the same time, if you remember, many time I said patience has limits. This occupation with these continuous crimes will react these violences.

[Paxman] One final point, Mr. 'Arafat. If these talks fail, what will you do?

['Arafat] We'll continue to try to achieve peace. You remember in 1988 we had declared our peaceful initiative in our PNC [Palestine National Council], which I had declared by the name of the Palestinian people and the United Nation general assembly in Geneva. After that, we had accepted the 10 Egyptian-American points and also, we had accepted the five points of Mr. Baker. We had applied the peaceful initiative declared by President Bush, and also, in spite of the preconditions, which had been declared by Shamir and the Israeli cabinet who facilitates for Mr. Baker his peace process.

Accepts Multinational Force Idea

NC2510134991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1506 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat announced that he accepts the idea of deploying multinational forces between Israel and the future state of Palestine to guarantee the security of the Israeli state.

'Arafat also expressed his readiness to discuss a ceasefire with Israel, as well as any other official proposals Israel makes to establish peace.

Says Jewish Settlements To Be Razed

LD2710214991 Moscow TASS in English 2111 GMT 27 Oct 91

[by TASS correspondent Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris October 27 TASS—The present Jewish settlements on occupied Arab territories will be razed after Israel withdraws, Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview broadcast by Radio France International today.

He stressed that according to international legal norms and decisions by the United Nations, the existence of Jewish settlements on occupied territories is illegitimate.

As regards the international Mideast peace conference which is due to open in Madrid on October 30, 'Arafat noted that it should not confine itself only to defining boundaries of the Palestinian state. The conference should look for and find solutions to other problems, including security in the region as well as securing for Palestinians ousted from their motherland in 1948 the right to return and get compensation in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

Chief Madrid Delegate Views Conference Outlook

PM2910121191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Oct 91 p 7

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation to the Madrid peace conference, by Katia Thabit in Gaza—date not given]

[Text] [Thabit] You met with James Baker several times within the framework of preparing for the peace conference, and you were among the candidates nominated to represent the Palestinians at that conference. And this is the first time the Palestinians have been given the opportunity to make their voice heard within the framework of an international conference. How do you assess this situation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The situation is not easy and it is not new. The fact is that the Palestinian people's torment goes back to the stage at which the British started to bolster the Zionist program and bring the Jews to Palestine. And it cannot be said that at that stage the Palestinians were not represented. There were parties: The

"Arabs" Party and the "Independence" Party. And there were respectable leaders like Musa Hazim al-Hysayni Pasha, and after him Haj Amin al-Husayni. The al-Husayni family long represented the Palestinian will. And the arrival of a huge number of Jews in Palestine in a bid to change the population ratio and proclaim the state of Israel the way it happened was designed from the outset to prevent the Palestinians from making a free decision within the framework of self-determination. Today, we accept the existence of a Jewish state in accordance with the principle of realism and in view of the present situation. No one can deny its establishment. The fundamental concession which we are offering is our move toward peace and acceptance of the principle of coexistence between two nations on the basis of negotiation, to arrive at a just and peaceful solution.

[Thabit] Why do you not accept autonomy as a beginning, then demand other gains?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Israel repeatedly and openly declares that the occupied Arab territories are Israeli territories and that we have no right to them. These are not mere slogans. These statements are translated into intensified settlement operations. That policy is not new. It has existed since al-Sadat was negotiating at Camp David, and it is still continuing. And its severity has increased since then. And this is the proof that Israel is totally committed to implementing that plan. They are proposing to us a three-year autonomy in order to arrive at a final status later. These are mere words, because the final status is being crystallized at this very moment while I am talking to you, namely through the continuous plantation of new settlements in the occupied territories.

True, on our way we have made many mistakes, but that does not mean that our present positions are erroneous. I admit that the Palestinian leaders have sometimes lacked political sense, but despite this there are some terrifying incidents today: Why, for example, is Israel rejecting European participation in the peace conference? Why are they rejecting an effective UN presence? What we are demanding is an arbitration that recognizes our rights, exactly like the arbitration that recognized Egypt's right to Tabah.

We want the international community to tell the Israeli Government that peace cannot be consistent with the policy it is pursuing. And we want Egypt and the other Arab states to exert pressures on the United States to stop the Israeli settlement policy.

[Thabit] In the Camp David stage President al-Sadat asked you to join the talks, but you refused. Do you not believe that you missed a historic opportunity and wasted years and years in order to come back today to rally around the late Egyptian president's position?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In the Camp David stage Palestinian public opinion was not ready to accept Al-Sadat's initiative. Today the situation is different and can lead to only two solutions: Either peace, or at least steps to reach peace; or a return to violence and its consequences. But we want Israel's violations of international law over the decades to be condemned and to cease. Israel has colonized more than one-third of the land in Gaza, which still embraces its people. What are the results on that policy in practice? First, it is depriving a people, who are poor in the first place, of their territory. Second, it is depriving them of room to live, of the room that allows them to live normally. And do not forget that Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas. And as Israel is preparing for the establishment of settlements there, on the pretext that it is utilizing "government" land, this simply means that it wants to confront the entire world with a fait accompli. We told Baker that the Israelis are disposing of the land as if the situation were finally settled. For example, in Galilee the rate of Israeli investment in the occupied territories clearly shows that the intention is to stay.

[Thabit] Let us be optimistic: With the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state, how do you expect to resolve the geographical problem represented by the area separating the Gaza Strip from the West Bank?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Although your question is very speculative in present conditions, I do not believe that the geographical structure of the territories presents a problem. When there is a real will to establish peace, nothing can obstruct that objective. And anything can be resolved. I can emphasize to you that we are the more peace-loving people: Israel must believe that, and the world as a whole must be convinced that our desire for peace is sincere and that the Palestinian peace initiative is very serious.

Most of our foreign visitors express their concern about the importance which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is gaining among Palestinian ranks, but I answer them: If Hamas is a source of concern for you, then be informed that the only way to put an end to its growth is to establish peace. Such a move is in the hands of Europe and the United States. In other words, we are going to the negotiating table in accordance with the terms which the Israelis wanted to impose: The territories over which we negotiate are under their control. And they have also imposed a number of preconditions.

PLO's al-Sus on Talks, Intifadah

TA2510144391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (HA'ARETZ supplement) in Hebrew 25 Oct 91 pp 11, 12, 13

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris, by Gid'on Levi in Paris—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sus] Shamir surprised us by not blocking the Palestinian delegation. He knows that 'Arafat personally selected the representatives to the delegation and that they are all PLO members. It is obvious that the delegation will be totally dependent on PLO instructions. They are delegates, not politicians.

They are good people, but people who carry out decisions, not make them. They will be linked to the advisory delegation of al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, who receive instructions directly from 'Arafat. That is obvious. I could have said that they are independent, but I would be lying. These people receive instructions from 'Arafat. There is no point in hiding it. The time has come for the Israelis to stop lying to themselves and to recognize the truth. The Americans know that the PLO is behind the delegation and Shamir knows it. Shamir tried, as 'Arafat has said, to block out the sun with his finger, but the fact that he said "yes" means something has changed in him. I feel something is changing in Israel. Suddenly, I feel that way. Our people in Tunis are also optimistic. Strange. [passage omitted]

[Levi] The Labor Party also supported the law banning contacts with you.

[Al-Sus] The law prohibiting meetings is your problem. I believe you are being unrealistic because there is not a single Palestinian who is not PLO. The PLO is not a political party; the PLO is a national organization. We are Palestine. We do not know who is who in the Labor Party. I constantly suggest to the French Socialist Party to try to organize secret meetings with Labor Party people. We wanted to arrange a meeting between Mordekhay Gur and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], but nothing came of it. Why? Believe me, we would have maintained secrecy. Shim'on Peres could have done many things. He withdrew the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Lebanon, he improved Israel's status in the world, and I know from the Elysee Palace that he has plans to take significant steps, but he is not doing it. We constantly hear one thing and then the opposite. I ask: Why? Why does he not say things clearly? Why does the Labor Party not get up now and say clear things? We need something new so much. We understand you are restricted by law, but why does nobody stand up? I am not referring to private initiatives, such as that of Abie Nathan, but something organized. I was not too kind to the Israeli peace camp in my book. In my view, a commitment to peace is to stop Shamir and Sharon, but your peace camp only talks, and it has hardly been doing even that recently. Why did several dozen Israelis not position themselves opposite the settlers in Silwan? Just imagine a situation in which large numbers of Israelis confronted the settlers. Why does the Israeli peace camp not station itself in a house that is about to be demolished and prevent the explosion with their bodies?

[Levi] A civil war?

[Al-Sus] If you do not do anything, it will be too late, and perhaps then a civil war will break out among you. Many Israelis I have met have a problem with their conscience. They should have organized and done something, and not just talk. I will always remember that the only demonstration against the Sabra and Shatila massacre was not in Damascus or Amman but in Tel Aviv, but why was it not followed up with anything else?

[Levi] Where is your peace camp to try to prevent at least the terrible murders among yourselves?

[Al-Sus] We feel that some of the violence and murders are justified. We do not support it, but we cannot condemn it. I do not like violence, but it is hard to tell somebody not to act violently against collaborators if his brother was murdered the day before. There are collaborators; that happens under an occupation. There is, of course, a lot of Palestinian hooliganism in that violence, but if you continue to close schools, many more Palestinian hooligans will grow up.

[Levi] You are considered a moderate, but you are nevertheless a supporter of the extremist [Faruq] Qaddumi.

[Al-Sus] I am not anybody's man. I was especially friendly with Abu-Iyad, who was murdered. We sat here and spoke for hours. He was a serious man. Qaddumi is becoming very powerful in the PLO. I would say that he is rigid, like the right wing of the Labor Party—somebody like Yitzhaq Rabin. His rigidity, however, is over tactics, not substance. In the past he was a member of the Ba'th and is therefore experienced in party maneuvering, something 'Arafat knows nothing about because he does not have a party background. Qaddumi is very strong and he is in favor of the international conference.

[Levi] Who are you counting on in the Likud?

[Al-Sus] In our view, there is a big difference between Shamir and Levi. According to what the French tell me, Levi is obviously much more flexible, more open to change. I feel he is a realist, perhaps because he is of Sephardic descent and has something eastern about him. It is a different mentality, less dogmatic than the Ashkenazi mentality, but we do not know enough about him. We feel that David Levi is still in the shadow. At first, the French did not like David Levi and did not understand him. Now they appreciate him a lot.

[Levi] Rabin? Peres?

[Al-Sus] There is an enormous difference between them. Peres is not a violent man; he is incapable of making decisions to break bones. He has a different cultural background. That is how we feel, and that is how the French feel. Yosi Beilin also has a good name in Palestinian circles, but where is he?

[Levi] So whom would you choose as a partner for negotiations?

[Al-Sus] David Levi, but we still have hopes pinned on Peres. It is a pity he does not have more courage.

[Levi] Why do you not declare a cessation to all acts of violence in the intifadah?

[Al-Sus] Nobody would listen to us. It is unreasonable, as long as the occupation continues in its current form. There is something very democratic about Yasir 'Arafat. He never imposes anything by force. He always senses

what is feasible and what is not in the general mood. In 1972 we told 'Arafat that we were going to meet Israelis, and he told us: Do that, but do not hurry; the time is not right yet. [passage omitted]

[Levi] In your mind's eye how do you view Israel, which you have never visited?

[Al-Sus] I see a lot of greenery, lots of trees. I think about Israel in terms of kibbutzim. When somebody says Israel to me, the first association that comes to mind is Ben-Gurion and the Negev. The Negev as described by author Shoshana Bukovza, who wrote about Dimona.

[Levi] No occupation and no soldiers?

[Al-Sus] No, honestly not. I do not believe that occupation and violence are your true character. None of the Israelis I have met were violent people. I do not believe that people like Sharon reflect the Israelis, but perhaps I am mistaken.

The second association that comes to mind, however, is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. I understand what the IDF means for you, but I cannot accept the way you present it. It is a super-army, an instrument of power and of an ideology that does not aspire to coexistence and peace. My second image of Israel is linked to the haughtiness of the IDF's top echelon.

The third association is one of boiling. It seems to me that you are now at the boiling point. A domestic crisis is seething among you. I was in shock when I heard that Shulamit Aloni refused to shake my hand. We were at some convention, and like two silly people we did not exchange any welcoming remarks. I asked why and was told: Do not incite her; there is a Knesset law. I said: Okay, but when I passed her in the corridor—we know each other—I could not resist and took her hand and shook it. She reacted violently and screamed: Why did you do that to me? She was suddenly very aggressive. That indicates to me that you are at the boiling point. For years we spoke to Israelis, even when there was a danger of being murdered. Now we cannot talk because of some law? [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Addresses Rally in Amman

JN2910121691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 12

[Excerpts] Amman (PETRA)—Members of the Palestinian side of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to the peace conference have praised the unity between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples to fulfill Arab hopes and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

This came at a speech rally held in Amman on the night of 27 October attended by 700 citizens. Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian side of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, and other delegation members, addressed the rally. These members included: Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Mamduh al-'Akir, and Zahirah Kamal. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni spoke about the new international changes which forced the Palestinians to accept the peace conference after a careful and profound study of the prevailing circumstances in the region, following the absence of the USSR, the Gulf war, and the emergence of the United States as the only global power. [passage omitted]

He called on the sons of Palestine to take the delegation to task if it compromises on the Palestinian people's basic rights. He noted that Israel has become a burden to the United States instead of a tool of support, and that the Gulf war has proved this, especially since it could not lift a finger during the war.

He also spoke about the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians. He said that these assurances are contained in a 2000-word letter, and that together they stress the establishment of a confederation, Israeli withdrawal, the implementation of UN resolutions, and achieving a comprehensive solution to the issue of Jerusalem. He said that the issue of East and West Jerusalem will be discussed together.

He stressed that at the peace conference the Palestinian side will raise the issue of UN Security Council Resolution 194, which calls for the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland from which they were expelled in 1948, or for compensating them. He said that the Palestinian side of the joint delegation will not compromise on this right, but it will be ready to discuss the mechanisms necessary for its implementation. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Intifadah Call 76

LD2510211691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Oct 91

["Text" of Unified National Command of the Intifadah's Call Number 76]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO. Call No. 76, the call of escalation of the intifadah. Masses of the intifadah, you who have hoisted the flag of freedom and independence: [passage omitted]

Heroes of the intifadah, as we are aware of the existence of more than one political interpretation of the course that should be taken towards the achievement of our people's objectives, the Unified National Command of the Intifadah stresses its absolute fervor for preserving Palestinian national unity and for consolidating this unity in a way that serves the Palestinian national struggle. [passage omitted]

In this context, the Unified National Command calls on the sons of our people to be vigilant and alert to the enemy's attempts to use its information media and other means to sow the seeds of division and disintegration among the sons of our people; for example, by broadcasting poison and fabricated and hateful lies and attributing them to national figures, so as to drive a wedge among the sons of our people and to harm its firm national unity.

Conspiracies against our cause are not new. We stand on the threshold of the 74th anniversary of the sinister Balfour Declaration. This promise-conspiracy, which set the first cornerstone of the Zionist entity in the land of Palestine, came to confirm the extent of the link, which has existed for a long time, between imperialism and Zionism in Palestine. This link is still in place even today and still binds the positions of imperialist powers, America in particular, together with all that is likely to entrench the role of Israel in the region as a guard for the interests of imperialism and in order to maintain its domination of the capabilities of the people of the region.

The Unified National Command hails the improvement of Syrian-Palestinian relations and hopes that this will be the beginning of a new page in relations in a way that serves the interests of the two peoples of Palestine and Syria.

The Unified National Command also hails improvement in French-Palestinian relations through the resumption of contacts between the PLO and the French Government as an important first step towards developing and activating a French-European position which supports the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

The Unified National Council warns against an attempt to revive the idea of appointments to municipal councils, especially in Nablus, and stresses its previous position on the issue, which consists of rejecting the principle of appointments at large.

The Unified National Council calls on you to undertake the following activities:

To conduct a large-scale campaign against Zionist goods, agricultural products in particular, and those who circulate them.
To consider the period 24-29 October a period of struggle and escalation against settlement and settlers.
To make 29 October a day of distinct escalation, to mark the 35th anniversary of the Kufr Qasim Massacre committed by the occupation forces.
To make 2 November a day of distinct escalation, to mark the 74th anniversary of the sinister Balfour Declaration.
To consider 5 November a day of escalation of confrontation with Zionist settlement in the city of Jerusalem, capital of our independent state.
To make 9 November a general strike day to mark the intifadah entering its 48th month.
To consider 11 November PLO Day, during which flags are to be hoisted across the state of Palestine to stress that the PLO alone represents the masses of our people, wherever they are.
To make 7, 14, 15, and 17 November days of general opening.
To hold national celebrations and festivals to mark the 3rd anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence and to hoist Palestinian flags across our independent state on 14-15 November.
On 18 November, to call a general strike in protest against the rabid campaigns of settlement across the state of Palestine, especially in the capital of our independent state.
To make 19 November a day of popular anger to mark the 15th anniversary of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.
To consider 20 November a day of struggle in solidarity with Palestinian detainees in the jails of Zionist occupation. Sit-ins are to be staged at Red Cross headquarters, and petitions are to be presented to those international institutions in protest against the practices perpetrated against the detainees and their people by prison administrations and officers, asking the Red Cross to assume its responsibilities in securing humane conditions for our detainees in Zionist jails.

Algeria

Opposition Leaders Explain Boycott Decision

LD2810191291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] [Announcer] The event in the country today is the new meeting between the government and the parties organized by the Interior Ministry. The meeting is taking place amid a feeling of discontent which is prevailing in some political circles while the government is trying to dispel any doubts about the good organization of the running of the forthcoming elections. The Aurassi Hotel meeting is consultative and is aimed at examining the issue of the technical arrangements of the voting process. Sources at the Interior Ministry have said that a proposal will be made for the creation of an inter-party body which will be in charge of following up the electoral operation. During this meeting, a heated debate is expected to take place about the state's financing of the electoral campaigns and the media coverage. Although this meeting falls within the framework of the resumption of the dialogue between the parties and the government to enable the latter to fulfill its commitments by organizing free and clean elections, some parties are however rejecting the government strategy.

At the forefront of the parties opposed to the government we find the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD]. The latter considers that it is useless to hold consultations on the preparation of the elections so long as the National Liberation Front [FLN] is still usurping state property. It is worth mentioning that even by adopting such a position the RCD is not ruling out its participation in the elections. As for the FIS, it considers the meetings between the government and the parties as more akin to rallies than to serious meetings. Mr. Rabah Kebir, chairman of the Political Committee of the FIS Provisional Executive Committee, explains his party's position in the following telephone interview with our colleague Mohamed Haloub:

[Begin recording] [Kebir] In fact, the issue of the preparation of the elections is in itself a sensitive issue on the strength of the fact that the elections lead to the formation of a government and subsequently a regime which could, in fact would change the present regime, thus enabling the Algerian people to rebuild themselves on the bases they choose. However, we have noticed for a while, since the June events and afterward, that the meetings held with the government and which we had boycotted were not as fruitful as we expected but in most cases they were more akin to a rally than to a serious meeting. The end result is that the government did not take into account the proposals made by the parties and it did what it deemed right. The National People's Assembly changed [laws] as it wished and a large degree of falsification remained in the laws. Therefore we consider that such a meeting, in a rally of parties once again, is useless.

[Haloub] Mr. Kebir, what makes you say that the previous meetings were more akin to rallies than to serious meetings? This is the first question. Secondly, is your boycott of today's meeting an expression of a rejection of the election laws?

[Kebir] It is certain that the laws which exist at present do not truthfully reflect the ambitions of the Algerian people as we see them. Therefore these laws contain a large degree of falsification and they contain matters which we rejected and about which we presented our proposals to both the government and the administrative committee at the level of the parliament but they were not taken into consideration. There is for example the issue of proxy voting which has been referred to the Constitutional Council. They are today trying to obstruct even some matters in which we saw some positive points. There is the issue of the original nationality of the deputy and the issue regarding the decision to allocate one deputy for every 80,000 in the large town while this differs in the small towns. This narrow partisan view is still dominant in the field of constituency boundaries. All this leads us to say that these laws still contain a large degree of falsification and they carry no credibility. [end recording]

[Announcer] We go back to the position of the RCD. Our colleague Haloub has just recorded this interview with [RCD leader] Mr Said Saadi who explains the reasons behind his party's boycott of the meeting between the Interior Ministry and the parties which began at the Aurassi Hotel today:

[Begin recording] [Saadi] As far as we are concerned, the essential problem regarding the forthcoming elections is the means which the FLN has taken possession of [reference to FLN acquisition of newspapers]. We have said that this point should be included in the agenda [of today's meeting] but we discovered that this point was not included. So we thought that since an essential point was withdrawn we had nothing to do at that meeting. We are going to the polls and we must go with the same means and we must be equal on the starting line.

[Haloub] Dr. Saadi, this point was not included in the agenda...

[Saadi,interrupting] We said that it should be included.

[Haloub] Yes, but you took part in the previous meeting between the government and the parties and this point was not included then.

[Saadi] We took part in the first meeting but I personally raised this point at that meeting and I said that we would like the government to be a non-partisan government whose duty would be to return all the state's property.

[Haloub] How can you link the point on the FLN property with today's meeting which deals with the technicalities of the preparation of the elections?

[Saadi] The meeting is not just about the technicalities. There is an essential point, namely that there is a party

which is going to the elections, like all the other parties, and this party possesses means which the Algerian state has taken [as heard]. The Algerian Government must return all the means so that all the parties start with equal means in these elections.

[Haloub] Dr. Saadi, it means that the RCD will not be present in the committee which will monitor the elections as this committee will be set up at the end of today's meeting?

[Saadi] No, we wanted to show that this government is not an interim government but a partisan government. We will take part in the elections, whatever happens but we wanted to show to the public opinion that the government has not done what it should have done with its party. We said there is a party which has means it took illegally from the state. You as a government must tell them to return these means. The government has not taken anything. [end recording]

[Announcer] We go back to the new meeting between the government and the parties and which is organized by the interior minister. Our colleague Mohsin Slimani is on the line from the Aurassi Hotel with this dispatch:

[Mohsin] About 13 parties have boycotted today's meeting between the political parties and the ministries of the Interior, Communication, and Justice, in addition to the minister delegate for the budget. Among the parties which have stayed away, we can mention the FIS, the Socialist Forces Front, the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [headed by former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah], the Socialist Vanguard Party, the Workers' Party, and the RCD. It is also worth mentioning that this meeting is not attended by the interior and communication ministers, Larbi Belkheir and Aboubakr Belkaid, but it being is co-chaired by two of their representatives. The remaining parties present also sent delegates to represent their leaders. The meeting in itself was described by the Interior Ministry representatives as technical, aimed at working out details about the implementation of the legal arrangements concerning the elections, the organization and the financing of the electoral campaign, and consulting the parties about ways to stay in direct contact with the Interior Ministry. The minister delegate for the budget, Mourad Medelci, spoke at this meeting to clarify on the whole the forms of aid to the political parties as defined by the law. He said that the state's aid to the parties and the independent candidates will be as follows: 7.2 million Algerian dinars to set up central headquarters; 3.6 million to set up headquarters at the provincial level. 600,000 dinars for cars [as heard]. Moreover, compensation of 5,000 dinars will be paid to the parties which fielded candidates in the [postponed] electoral campaign on 27 June. In addition, every independent candidate will receive 20,000 dinars and every party candidate will receive 10,000 dinars.

The Justice Ministry representative dealt for his part with the legal arrangements that will govern the electoral campaign and the monitoring of the electoral operation. He said that the administrative committees, which will be supervised by judges in 1,541 municipalities, will also rely on the role of the parties in monitoring the elections. He added that the lists of candidates will be put up on 31 October after which the parties will have eight days to present their objections to the courts. As regards the interventions of party representatives this morning, there were some objections to the financial aid package as most of them pointed out that the amounts allocated were insufficient and unfair in comparison with the parties' limited resources while the FLN possesses all the necessary conditions which will help it enter the elections with better chances. Finally, it is worth indicating that a meeting between the parties present here at the Aurassi Hotel and the Higher Information Council will be held this evening to discuss ways to use the state-owned media in the electoral campaign.

Egypt

Musa 'Full of Hope' for Madrid Conference

NC2810153491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received the Egyptian delegation to the Madrid peace conference. Afterward, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Amr Musa said the delegation received guidelines and instructions from President Mubarak and discussed conference topics and issues. Musa said: The delegation will leave for Madrid tomorrow, and I will depart today to hold some urgent consultations.

Musa said the president's guidelines revolve around the well-known Egyptian stand, adding that he hoped the conference will lead to a comprehensive and just settlement according to the principles and provisions of UN Security Resolution 242 on which the Egyptian stand is clear, calling for the exchange of land for peace and for respect for the Palestinian people's rights. It also upholds the rights and obligations of all parties. These are our guidelines and we hope that the peace process will lead to a just Middle East settlement, which can only come about if all the parties respect their international obligations in accordance with international law, and at the same time gain their rights.

According to President Mubarak's instructions, Musa said, the Egyptian delegation has a special character, composed of Foreign Ministry officials and intellectuals.

The foreign minister said: The military members' advisory role will come later on. The talks will be long and continuous. This is the initial stage. The experts' role will come later.

Egyptian delegation contacts with the Israeli side are open and possible, he added. As for tomorrow, before the conference opens, I do not have definite engagements.

Musa said bilateral negotiations will go for four days after the opening of the conference and, while the talks will start in Madrid, the negotiating parties will later agree on another venue. I am leaving today to discuss the remaining points with the other delegation heads.

The papers on the Egyptian position have been prepared, Musa said, adding: We are going to Madrid carrying several files on the conference. We are not a party to the bilateral talks but we will observe and follow them. We are also prepared to help all parties, trying to negotiate, reconcile, and achieve a settlement of a dispute that has overburdened the region for years.

This is an unprecedented opportunity and we are full of hope, the foreign minister said, which must be tangible in the parties' stands as they negotiate on the basis of land for peace, rights for rights, and security for security. Each party must give and take in accordance with the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, he added.

We cannot reach a settlement with a party which takes and does not give. The past is known, as are the circumstances in the region, and international changes, Musa noted. We want a just, comprehensive, and balanced settlement according to international law and UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Egyptian foreign minister went on: This is a very serious process, with all parties expected to fulfill the commitments they have made to the United States, the Egyptian Government, and others. It is very serious. I do not expect, at least I hope there will not be, any deliberate attempt to wreck the conference.

As we have stated several times, he continued, we are an Arab party supporting the Arab stand which has legitimate demands. We are prepared to fulfill our obligations, but at the same time we have peaceful relations with Israel, which will be maintained in the interests of peace and a balanced, just settlement.

Asked about the Egyptian conference strategy, Musa told a Spanish television correspondent: I thank the Spanish Government for hosting the conference, and I am happy to be meeting high-ranking Spanish officials in Madrid. Our stand is defined in advance: We are calling for and working toward a settlement of the Middle East conflict that will take into account the rights of the peoples of the region on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Musa discussed 'Arafat's request for Egypt to continue to help in the bilateral talks, saying: When such a request comes from the various parties in each phase of the bilateral talks, we are ready. We will follow and observe these talks and are prepared to help within existing points of reference and documents.

Asked whether the Jerusalem issue will be postponed, Musa said: All issues can be submitted for discussion, including Jerusalem. Arranging the agenda and its items will crop up later.

'Optimistic' Musa Departs

NC2810154891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Madrid this afternoon, leading the Egyptian peace conference delegation.

Before leaving, Musa said the Arab side is going to the peace conference supported by its established right and confidence that occupied Arab lands in the West Bank, Golan, and Gaza are the issue. He emphasized the Arab commitment to land for peace.

Musa said the Palestinians are demanding their rights according to the UN Resolutions, adding that Israel also has the right to live within secure and recognized borders.

He said there are certain facts, and that discussions will focus on issues related to a settlement. If an agreement is reached on these principles—land for peace, right for right, and security for security—it will help to reach agreements in the near future.

The foreign minister added that the coming stage of negotiations will not be easy and that no quick results are expected. We need to be patient and calm and to give things their due consideration, he said, adding that this does not mean the conference will continue indefinitely, because there are reasonable limits.

Musa remarked that reaching a settlement is not impossible and that all the parties will work for it, particularly since the countries entitled to give guarantees—the United States, the Soviet Union, and the European community—and the states in contact with all the parties, such as Egypt, strengthen the Arab stand.

It is unacceptable to reach a settlement in one side's favor at the expense of the other, said the foreign minister, underlining the need for a balanced settlement, particularly since Resolution 242 emphasizes the need for balanced rights.

Musa said success will be hard if the parties do not cooperate and accept the land-for-peace principle. They should recognize that this principle governs negotiations and conference proceedings, he said, adding that the parties' rights should be recognized.

'Amr Musa said the Arab delegations are taking part in the conference because it is a unique opportunity at this time and under current circumstances. All the parties can progress to a solution, helping to negotiate a just settlement.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he is optimistic the conference will succeed. The Egyptian delegation is

expected to leave Cairo for Madrid tomorrow, Tuesday, to take part in the conference.

Madrid Delegation Departs

NC2910090291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0836 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation to the peace conference, which will begin in Madrid tomorrow, left Cairo this morning. Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, former assistant foreign minister and delegation member, stated that the Egyptian delegation will participate fully in the conference, except in the bilateral talks.

Mubarak Receives Syria's al-Shar'

NC2710104691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Mubarak has received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

Musa Confers With Palestinian Delegation

NC2610200891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with the Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, head of the Palestinian contingent to the peace conference in Madrid. The two sides consulted on the peace conference, due to open on Wednesday.

Musa, Palestinians Comment

NC2610223191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Following his talks with the Palestinian delegation, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the discussions dealt with the peace process and the hope that it will lead to a just solution for the Middle East problem and for all Palestinians, Egyptians, and Arabs to go into the peace efforts [words indistinct] we have lived in the past decades as a result of disregard for rights and the occupation of territories and also as a result of the constant conflicts and disputes. He added: We hope that the peace conference will be the beginning of a new chapter.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed hope that all the parties to the conference will contribute to the negotiations based on the land-for-peace principle and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in order to reach a just and lasting solution based on these principles.

Head of the Palestinian delegation Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi stated: We the Palestinians are going to the conference with sincere intentions and to contribute to making peace. From our talks, we are fully confident that the Palestinian issue enjoys the support and backing of our brothers in Egypt and the Arab countries. The recent five-way conference emphasized this stand. He added: As a Palestinian from Gaza, I am naturally very happy to be in Egypt because relations between us throughout the 20 years Egypt was in the Gaza Strip have left their mark. We are grateful to the Egyptian administration, especially in the field of education. This is why I am happy and will continue to be happy.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman, said: We discussed Arab coordination not only on strategies and organizational points, but also on essential questions, future relations, and priorities. There was complete agreement on these issues and on the bases for Arab coordination. Anything decided at the conference must be based on Arab coordination.

Faysal al-Husayni, the delegation's adviser, said: We are going to the peace conference very anxious to avoid all Israeli provocations or attempts to evade the conference. Israel will not be given this opportunity.

On the formation of the Israeli delegation, al-Husayni said: We do not want to interfere in the affairs of others. They have the right to form the delegation as they want. What we want is for Mr. Shamir to go to the conference with an open heart and mind and with sincerity for the sake of the cause of peace, which foremost concerns his people. He added: We have our fears because of Shamir's character and his public political stands. But, in the end, we want to make our judgment only at the negotiating table.

Mubarak Receives Palestinians

NC2710080191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference; Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian advisory council; and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the official spokeswoman of the delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Palestinian Delegation Departs

NC2710100691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation to the peace conference led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi left Cairo for Amman this morning after a one-day visit that included a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

The delegation met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday. It also met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects 'Sell-Out' Talks

NC2510172391 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Oct 91 pp 9, 10

[Text] Muslim Brotherhood leader Muhammad Hamid abu-al-Nasr has addressed a message to the kings and presidents all Arab and Islamic countries on the attempt to terminate the Palestinian issue. The following is the text of the message:

O ye that believe, betray not the trust of God and the Apostle, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you. [Koranic verse]. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

The Palestine issue, which is our Islamic nation's cause, currently is passing through one of its most difficult stages. The enemies are gathered against it from everywhere like the hungry when they find food. They are concocting schemes to strike at the heart of the Muslim nation, which is represented by the land where our blessed Prophet travelled during his night journey, the land God Almighty blessed and made the origin of His heavenly messages and the birthplace of his noble messengers, may God's peace be upon them. It is the same land on which the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque was built as the first quibla of the Muslims and the place housing their third-ranking blessed mosques. So holy and highly dignified is this land that God mentioned it in the Holy Koran.

At this particular time, when our nation is suffering from division and weakness, steps are being accelerating to hold the so-called peace conference. The Muslim Brotherhood, while declaring their opposition to this conference, emphasizes the following:

1. This conference aims to terminate the Palestinian conference and grant our brother Palestinians a fragile self-rule under Zionist hegemony. It also aims to bring the Islamic and Arab nation to its knees by dragging it into reconciling with the enemy and normalizing relations with it, thus preparing the atmosphere for swallowing and dominating the entire region.

2. The intense U.S. efforts and the tours and moves by Secretary of State Baker to quickly convene this conference clearly indicate that the United States seeks immediately to take advantage of our Islamic nation's weakness to impose its new order on the world and our region. By so doing, the United States wants to preempt any attempt for a possible renaissance of the nation to recover its vitality and unity.

3. The eagerness many Arab leaders are showing to attend the conference for the sell-out of Palestine is alarming. It shows the state to which we have descended at the hands of these leaders as a result of their departure from Islam and their attempt to keep it out of the battle. If they take part in this conference and sign its unjust resolutions, they will be held responsible at present and before the coming generations for abandoning the Palestine issue and the al-Aqsa Mosque and will bear the guilt of keeping them under occupation. The Muslim Brotherhood urges these leaders to come to their senses by rejecting the conference for the sell-out of Palestine and to side with the Arab and Islamic masses, who in no way will accept embassies and flags of the Zionist enemy on the Arab and Islamic territories.

4. The excuses and pretexts some are using to justify their participation in (the conference of the sellout of Palestine) are false and rejected. The state of weakness and division in which our Arab and Islamic nation is passing is temporary. Our nation will wake up from its slumber, with God's help, as it did in the past but stronger and more determined. The current Zionist-Western campaign will wither, as did the Crusades and the Tatars. All we have to do is to prepare ourselves, mobilize and unify the nation, and rely on God and then on ourselves and our huge potential. Our Arab and Islamic regimes must give liberties to their people so the governments and peoples can cooperate for the benefit of the Islamic nation and on confronting all challenges.

5. The Muslim Brothers appeal to the struggler sons of Palestine, who are waging a bitter war through their blessed intifadah, to ignore calls which will weaken determination and resoluteness. They emphasize that their jihad march is the sound road, and their rejection of the conference, which they call the conference for selling out Palestine and Jerusalem, is the sound stand blessed by God, His messenger, and the faithful. We need further determination and jihad until God grants us victory. "And God hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [koranic verse]

6. The Muslim Brothers urge all the world's Muslims to shoulder their responsibility and carry out their duty toward liberating al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine. The Muslim Brothers urge all Muslims to rise up to their responsibility not to relinquish one inch of the blessed land of Palestine. They remind them that the liberation of al-Aqsa is an issue which concerns every Muslim, wherever he may be. It is not a mission entrusted only to the Palestinians and Arabs. Palestine is a holy Islamic land which has been owned by Muslim generations over the centuries. This Islamic dimension of the Palestine issue alone is capable of mobilizing energies and massing armies to confront the Jewish armies, the enemies of God, who are emigrating into usurped Palestine to realize their rancorous dreams and demolish the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and build their alleged temple in its place. They also seek to implement their plans which aim to establish "greater Israel", which extends from the Euphrates to the Nile, according to their delusions.

O Muslims, you must stand as one man, reject the plot which aims to relinquish the holy places, rally around the book of God, and gather under the banner of jihad for the sake of liberating al-Aqsa and safeguarding the Muslims' dignity, which will be insulted in the conferences' halls. Do not be among those who were described in God's holy book as: "Ye who believe, what is the matter with you, that when ye are asked to go forth in the cause of God, ye cling heavily to the earth? Do ye prefer the life of this world to the hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the hereafter." [Koranic verse]

Kuwait

Prime Minister Reviews Defense, Political Status

LD2410170991 London KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Tunis, 24 Oct (KUNA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd-al-'Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, affirmed that the agreements on defense cooperation signed between Kuwait and friendly states will not affect, either directly or indirectly, the Kuwaiti orientation and Kuwait's role in all the issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic nation.

In an interview to the Tunisian weekly magazine REALITES, which is to be issued in Tunis tomorrow, his highness affirmed the commitment of the Kuwaiti authority to fulfill the promise of the amir regarding the return of parliamentary life in October of next year and guaranteeing the impartiality of elections which are covered by laws and regulations.

With regard to the participation of women in the parliamentary elections and granting them their political rights, his highness said that that topic is the subject of a study by the Kuwaiti National Council.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister announced that the Government will soon form a committee of citizens who have competence and knowledge in the sphere of Kuwaiti nationality in order to choose those who are characterized by loyalty and sacrifice for Kuwait, and to define the naturalization policy. [passage omitted]

His highness affirmed that the Kuwaiti Government is not afraid of lifting censorship on newspapers, "but the circumstances through which we are passing call for exchange of views and consultation." He pointed out that this subject was put forward during his meeting with chief editors of daily and weekly papers and a formula for this topic was agreed upon. This consists of a study by information officials, who will then present a new concept. [passage omitted]

With regard to the future of Kuwaiti-Tunisian relations, his highness replied that the answer to that question "is left to the brothers in Tunisia." He hopes that relations between the two countries will improve and return to their past state.

Western Banks Participate in $5 Billion Loan

LD2410232391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] London, 24 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Investment Corporation [Haya't al-Istithmar al-Kuwayti] affirmed this evening that Kuwait will get a medium-term loan with a value of $5 billion, towards which 24 international banks will contribute. The statement, issued by J.P. Morgan Bank today, said that the group of 24 banks that will administer this loan will, from the coming week, attempt to attract other banks from different parts of the world to contribute a share towards this proposed loan.

These 24 principal banks include: the Arab Bank Foundation, Nova Scotia Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Bank National du Paris, Chase Manhattan Bank, Credit Lyonnais, CitiBank, Gulf International Bank, Kuwait National Bank, Morgan Guarantee Trust Bank, National Commercial Bank, the Swiss Bank Corporation, Chemical Bank, and a number of other big banks.

The statement said that the J.P. Morgan Bank will act as a coordinating bank for this loan, while the Kuwaiti National Bank will act as a special Kuwaiti consultant specific to this issue.

The Morgan Bank statement added that, as the process of this loan enters its second stage and before the signing process which is scheduled for next December, the State of Kuwait has expressed its appreciation for the strength of the support for this loan which has so far been demonstrated, and for the wide geographical diversity which the participating banks represent.

Oman

Official on Gulf Security Cooperation

LD2810164591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Ghani] What stage has been reached in the mediation efforts exerted by Oman between Iran and Egypt, especially in view of statements emanating from Tehran and Cairo that the mediation effort has reached an impasse?

[Bin-'Abdallah] From the contacts we have made with the leaders in both Egypt and Iran over the settlement of some of the questions blemishing relations between the two countries I discovered the positive wish of the two countries' leaders to surmount these difficulties and achieve useful cooperation in the interests of the two peoples in Egypt and Iran, on the grounds that they are among the largest Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

As for the statements, I have no knowledge of statements issued by the leaders in charge in the two countries to the effect that the efforts made "have achieved nothing." I believe that what you refer to features among the incorrect conclusions drawn by some papers which can, regrettably, be regarded as papers working to stir up disputes among the Islamic states.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Some Gulf sources have said that the Sultanate and Yemen have reached a final agreement on the demarcation of borders between the two countries

and that Sultan Qabus will soon be going to sign that agreement. What truth is there in this?

[Bin-'Abdallah] There is no agreement in the sense understood by some people on an important and sensitive point, namely the subject of demarcating the borders between the two countries. There are inclinations or a desire which led to intensifying consultations between the two countries to explore the possibility of demarcating the border line between them—the line on which there is agreement. It was signed in 1965 under the British Government's "East Aden protectorate," known as the al-Mahrah Governorate.

For our part, we are willing to proceed with our consultations with our brothers in Yemen with a view to reaching a final border line based on common interests and international law.

As for His Majesty Sultan Qabus' visit to the Republic of Yemen, he certainly has the desire to visit his brother in the Republic of Yemen, and we hope to resolve all the matters that have still not been resolved between the two countries. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] In talks held recently you discussed with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the issues assigned to the Gulf higher security committee. Did you reach an understanding on these issues, especially the subject of a unified Gulf army?

[Bin-'Alawi] What was discussed with His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al—'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, concerned the procedural aspects of some meetings. And we did not broach more detailed issues or issues concerning political decision-making. This is because the task of the higher security committee headed by his Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id is specific, namely that the committee submit a comprehensive report to the next summit, which is the one that can adopt the right inclination to allow the Gulf region to enjoy stability and security.

The Oman view with regard to the formation of an independent Gulf army came as a result of numerous experiences which will be explained in the future. That plan gives the Gulf's sons—for the first time—the opportunity to defend themselves, their own sons, their countries, and their resources. And we certainly are pushing that idea toward implementation. But at the same time we can understand the problems facing some states regarding the possibility of realizing it. And in all cases we will proceed from realistic foundations.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What is the real inclination inside the Gulf Cooperation Council with regard to the relationship with Tehran?

[Bin-'Abdallah] All the GCC states acknowledge and believe in the importance of relations with their neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the broad interests binding the two sides. And endeavors are always aimed at securing the best formulas to secure mutual interests and good-neighborliness that are sure to result in stability and security in the region. In this context we view the matter from the angle of the firm desire for collective relations between the GCC states and Iran to be useful, strong, and firm. And the GCC member states are working bilaterally to develop their relations with Iran. And we believe that it is possible at a later stage to reach a comprehensive agreement comprising the GCC states and Iran in the form agreed by all the parties. And we see that that form cannot be dispensed with in the future.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Does that agreement include security cooperation specifically?

[Bin-'Abdallah] Certainly we devote great interest to security issues and believe that the foundation for realizing security and stability prompts us to consider all views from the security aspect. But what is more important is the economic and trade interests binding the two countries with strong ties. And we believe that if these trade and economic ties are organized and regulated, many of the concerns and the theories about security dangers will disappear.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Iran is strongly opposed to policies adopted by the GCC states, individually or in combination, especially with regard to security arrangements. Tehran commented "strongly" on Kuwait's signing of the security agreement with the United States and rejected any non-Arab presence in these arrangements. How do the GCC states view that position, which looks like "interference" by Iran? And how can they cooperate with it, when it is opposed to many of their positions?

[Bin-'Abdallah] First, the principle to which all are committed is every state's right to take the measures which it deems necessary to protect its security and interests. In our extensive bilateral and collective contacts with Iran we did not sense any form of opposition from Iran to the protection of our interests, territories, and countries. We do, however, sense the extent of sensitivity toward some of the matters concerning security aspects.

So we always seek with our brothers in Iran to avoid these things. But matters have not reached a stage which we could call a stage of confrontation. Perhaps there is a lack of knowledge of the details and orientations, and these are being discussed, explained, and interpreted. Thus we believe that they do not represent any obstacle to developing relations or cooperation between the GCC states and Iran. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] With regard to bilateral security agreements, do the GCC states intend to conclude agreements similar to the Kuwaiti-U.S. agreement, or will they be content with granting the coalition states facilities in the event of crises, just as they did during the Kuwait war?

[Bin-'Abdallah] We do not know the content of the security agreement which Kuwait signed with the United

States. And I would like to emphasize here that that matter concerns bilateral relations and has nothing to do with collective action within the GCC framework. This is because the member states agreed that the cooperation issues between them and the coalition states that took part in the Kuwait war concerned their bilateral relations with these states.

Saudi Arabia

King Names New Ground Forces Commander

LD2410200591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Oct 91

["Text of two royal decrees"—announcer-read]

[Text] Royal Decree A, Division 11, issued on 23 Oct 91: In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. With God almighty's assistance, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, in cognizance of Clause A of Article 117 of the system of officers service decreed by royal decree No. 43 on 14 March 1973 following a proposal from the president of the Council of Ministers, based on a recommendation from the Minister of Defense, Aviation and the Inspector-General, we have decreed the following:

1. The service of Staff General Yusuf Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid is to be terminated and he is to be referred to retirement.

2. His highness the minister of defense, aviation and the inspector-general is called upon to execute our order.

Royal decree A, Division 12, issued on 23 October 91: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God almighty's help, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, following in cognizance of Royal Decree No. A, Division 11, of 23 October 1991, and in cognizance of Article 27 of system of officers service issued according to Royal Decree No. 43 on 14 March 1973 following a proposal from president of the Council of Ministers based on a recommendation from his highness the minister of defense, aviation and the inspector-general, we have decreed the following:

1. Staff Major General Salih al-'Ali al-Muhaya is to be promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant general and is to be appointed commander of the ground forces.

2. His highness the minister of defense, aviation and inspector-general is called upon to implement this order.

Ambassador Reportedly To Return to Amman

NC2610090391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Oct (MENA)—The Kuwaiti AL-WATAN newspaper today cites Jordanian diplomatic sources as saying that Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Fahd al-'Isa, Saudi ambassador to Amman, will return to his post in Amman within the next few days.

According to these sources, relations between the two countries experienced a positive upturn after the Gulf crisis. The sources note that Saudi airlines will soon resume flights to Amman.

The paper added that the Saudi Government has allowed 25 Jordanian trucks to travel to the Saudi port of Jeddah for the first time in 15 months.

Yemen

Iraqi Rebel Radio Reports 'Planned Coup'

NC2610165091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Press sources in Beirut today cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that preparations are under way for a coup d'etat against the leadership of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Yemen. These preparations, the sources said, are taking place against a backdrop of political and economic hardships and security deterioration in Yemen. The sources said that Yemen's increasing troubles are linked with the support 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regime gave to the defeated tyrant during the invasion of Kuwait.

'Aziz Reaction to Nonaggression Pact Claims

JN2510120891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has said that what King Fahd stated in his latest speech with regard to the circumstances under which a nonaggression pact between Iraq and Saudi Arabia was signed contains clear falsehoods.

Tariq 'Aziz made this remark in a statement to INA in which he was reacting to what King Fahd had said in a recent speech. 'Aziz stated: King Fahd's speech, the text of which we have read, concerning the circumstances under which a nonaggression pact between Iraq and Saudi Arabia was signed, contains clear falsehoods.

'Aziz added: In his speech, King Fahd claimed that during his visit to Baghdad, President Saddam Husayn gave him a paper, which according to Fahd, contained a nonaggression treaty between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. King Fahd, as well as the attending Saudi delegation, including Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, well know President Saddam Husayn did not give any paper to King Fahd at that meeting. His excellency only presented his ideas about signing a nonaggression pact among the Arab states, the inadmissibility of the use of force to resolve differences among them, and the noninterference in each other's domestic affairs with the aim of strengthening confidence among the Arab states and improving and deepening Arab solidarity. This was based on the idea that such pacts would strengthen the concepts and principles contained in the Arab League Charter, concepts and principles which had become invalid with the passage of time and because the Arab countries did not respect them. President Saddam Husayn said Iraq had prepared a draft for such a pact and had conveyed it to a number of Arab states. Before President Saddam Husayn had even finished his remarks on the subject, King Fahd showed a desire to immediately sign such a pact between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. President Saddam Husayn welcomed this attitude.

Tariq 'Aziz said: I was charged, together with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, with the task of reviewing the draft pact and preparing it for signing. I then sent a copy of the draft pact to Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to study and in preparation to discuss it with me. The next day, I met with Sa'ud al-Faysal at the Foreign Ministry and we reviewed the draft together. Sa'ud al- Faysal asked for the deletion of a clause from the Iraqi draft which stated that "if an Arab country uses force against another Arab country, Arab countries must warn that country to stop its use of force. If it does not stop, then the Arab countries, or any of them who wish to do so, may deploy troops and force it to stop." I accepted the amendment proposed by the Saudi minister because President Saddam Husayn had instructed me to accept any formula desired by the Saudi side. The documents for the pact were prepared according to the Saudi amendment and they were signed by both President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd.

Tariq 'Aziz noted: Before signing the pact with Saudi Arabia, the draft for the pact on the nonuse of force and noninterference was presented to a number of Arab states. It was also presented to a number of Arab states after it was signed with Saudi Arabia. A copy of it was sent to the Kuwait rulers, who did not show any desire to sign it at that time.

Source Denies Saddam Refused To Receive 'Arafat

JN2810202291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—TASS cited its correspondent in Cairo as reporting that President Saddam Husayn refused to receive PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Culture and Information told INA that the TASS report is fabricated and groundless.

Rebel Radio Reports Al-Najaf Under Siege

NC2810162591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The criminal Saddamist troops are imposing a siege on the holy city of al-Najaf where their mercenaries, fearing a massive uprising, are patrolling the streets in search of our brother mujahidin. Shots are being heard at night in city quarters.

Our heroic mujahidin keep up their jihad operations against the criminal regime's mercenaries, caught scared by the angry masses. These scoundrels are constantly changing their headquarters and assembly points.

Our brave mujahidin carried out a just punishment on four regime criminals in al-Najaf. Among them was Talib al-Gharrawi, an officer in Saddam's intelligence who worked in Kuwait before the criminal Saddamist invasion, and notorious for crimes against the people of al-Najaf, and Rashid Hamid al-Matba'i, used by the defeated regime to chase and assassinate Iraqi opposition elements outside the homeland.

This operation replied to crimes committed by the criminal regime's henchmen against the sons of our people and their properties.

Two 'Regime' Helicopters Defect to Iran

NC2610154791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 91

[Text] Two military helicopters belonging to the tyrant's regime, which had been sent to the marshlands to bombard the Iraqi opposition forces, have defected to Iran. This was stated today by Lebanese press sources. The sources said that the two helicopters were carrying chemical weapons for use against the Iraqi opposition.

Shamir Departs for Madrid Conference 29 Oct

Insists on Talks in Region

TA2910064991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegation to the Madrid conference, led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, is leaving for Spain at this moment. Mr. Shamir will apparently meet with President Bush tomorrow morning, even before the opening of the conference. The meeting between the prime minister and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will be held tomorrow around noon, apparently, during one of the recesses in between the opening speeches.

In briefing the delegation yesterday, the prime minister said that Israel will insist that the bilateral talks be held in our region and not in Europe or in Washington as the Arabs are proposing.

The composition of the Israeli delegation's advisory committee was decided upon yesterday. It will include, among others, Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the prime minister's bureau; 'Azri'el Nevo, his military secretary; media adviser Ehud Gol; Yig'al Karmon, the antiterror adviser; Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories; [former Foreign Ministry Director General] David Kimche; and top Foreign Ministry officials. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

TA2910064291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0556 GMT 29 Oct 91

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to the Israeli delegation's departure to the Madrid conference on 29 Oct—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Shamir] ....I am happy to say that we will enter the first stage of the peace process there. Thank you. Are there any questions?

[IDF political correspondent Yaron Deqel] Mr. Prime Minister, would you be willing to comment on the terrorist attack that took place yesterday evening and on its ramifications for the Madrid conference?

[Shamir] Well, yesterday the Israeli people and the entire world witnessed and understood the true nature of the olive branches borne by the Palestinian murderers. Israel, which is acting to further peace, will know how to strike with all its force at the terrorist murderers and at those who send them out on their missions. I send my condolences to the families of the murdered and wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, I understand that the issue of the Palestinian delegation has still not been resolved, both with regard to the duration of their speech and with regard to the measure of cohesiveness between the Palestinians and the Jordanian delegation. What do you intend to do if it transpires that these are separate delegations?

[Shamir] Well, these are mistaken moves, which are a result of the trend to cultivate a negative element in the region. This will not affect our positions and status.

[Deqel] Sir, do you feel that the United States failed to meet the agreements that were reached with Israel in Jerusalem prior to the Madrid conference?

[Shamir] I said that it was a mistaken move.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, there are continuing reports about a possible proposal according to which a settlement freeze will be announced in return for a halt to the Intifadah. Is Israel willing to accept such a deal?

[Shamir] Nobody has made such a proposal to us because they obviously know what our position and response would be. Our response is negative.

[Israel Television correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] Would you be ready—not as a precondition, but as a gesture—to make some kind of Israeli gesture at the Madrid conference?

[Shamir] I cannot state in advance what we are going to do or how we will respond to every appeal made to us. I can only say that we reject any preconditions whatsoever. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Meet With USSR's Gorbachev 30 Oct

TA2810175591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The meeting, which dealt with the time allotted to the Palestinian representative to address the Madrid conference, ended without any results. The participants were Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington, and U.S. officials. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the decision that the Palestinian representative will speak for 45 minutes, the same period as allotted to the other delegations, remains in force for the time being. Ambassador Shoval said that no further meetings have been set on that issue, but he believes the dispute does not endanger the opening of the conference.

Israeli sources in Madrid deny the reports quoting 'Arafat's political adviser that several days after the start of the conference the United States will renew the dialogue with the PLO. The sources are basing themselves on clarifications provided by U.S. diplomats attending the peace conference.

Prime Minister Shamir will confer Wednesday with President Gorbachev at the peace conference, Ambassador Shoval confirmed.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 28 October adds that "from reports reaching Jerusalem from Madrid it transpired this afternoon that the

problem is not only one of giving equal time to the address by the head of the Palestinian team. The Americans proposed that the heads of delegation sit around the oval table while the delegations themselves sit behind their chairmen. The Americans said, however, that two people would represent the Jordanian-Palestinian side around the table, one for the Jordanians and one for the Palestinian team. Pro forma at least it will look like two separate delegations, which is contrary to our understanding with the Americans. Another outstanding issue is the location of the bilateral talks. It seems that the Americans support holding them in Europe, not necessarily in Madrid, or in the United States—as the Arabs demand—while Israel insists that they take place in the region."]

Three Palestinian Advisers' Madrid Travel Banned

NC2810172591 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 28 (AFP)—Israel has banned three Palestinians from travelling to a Middle East peace conference in Madrid because of their record, Palestinian sources said here Monday.

Ziyad Abu-'Ayn, Ahmad Shrayim and Fathi al-Hajj are former prisoners who were sentenced to jail for anti-Israeli activity.

The three had been due to join an advisory committee led by key Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni at the conference, due to open Wednesday, to assist 14 Palestinians participating in a joint delegation with Jordan.

U.S. diplomats informed them of the Israeli decision, the sources said.

Abu-'Ayn, 31, was serving a life sentence in 1985 when he was set free as part of an Israeli-Palestinian prisoner exchange but that same year he was sent to jail for another three-year term for anti-Israeli activity.

Settlers' Bus Fired on in West Bank 'Ambush'

TA2810171591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Seven residents were wounded when a bus full of Jewish settlers was shot at in an ambush at the Tapuah Junction on the West Bank. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that ambulances are treating the wounded. Three of the casualties are suffering moderate to serious injuries.

At a soldiers' pick-up station in Tirat Karmel a Peugeot truck tried to run over three women soldiers. The soldiers were not hurt because they managed to scramble away in time. The vehicle sped away. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the soldiers said that two young people were in the vehicle. Roadblocks have been set up.

Two Killed; Five Wounded

TA2810181691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Two people were killed and five others injured this evening when a bus came under fire near the Tapuah Junction in Samaria. The casualties were all Jewish settlers from the territories. Ambulances arrived on the scene shortly after the attack and took the wounded to hospitals in the Tel Aviv area. The bus was on its way to Tel Aviv for a demonstration calling for a tough line at the peace conference in Madrid. The spokesman for the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlement Council, Bob Lang, said a number of bursts of automatic fire hit the bus. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Remarks Linked to Attack

TA2910052991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Health Minister Ehud Olmert accuses the PLO of being behind last night's terror attack. Olmert told reporter David Essing that Palestinian activist Hanan 'Ashrawi has, in fact, declared there would be an increase in terrorism:

[Begin recording] [Olmert] Well, this is not entirely unexpected. We all had anticipated that the PLO will try to do this, and, in fact, Hanan 'Ashrawi has warned us that this is precisely what they are trying to do. I think that we have to deal with terrorism with a complete disregard to the fact that there is a peace conference at the same time, and we have to address ourselves to the peace issues entirely independently of these terrorist activities.

[Essing] Do you think that there might be more terrorist attacks on the way, sir?

[Olmert] We certainly have to be aware of the possibility and to try to do everything in order to stop it. [end recording]

Speaking to the Shasha Institute of the Hebrew University last night, Minister Olmert said the decision to allow the Palestinians equal time at the Madrid conference will add to Israel's concerns about a possible trap.

Further Reaction to Attack

TA2910133991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 91 p A2

[By Gid'on Alon and Lili Galili]

[Excerpts] President Hayim Herzog commented on the murder in Tapuah, saying that "this lawless act on the eve of the peace conference is not only a human crime of the lowest kind, but also an attempt to kill the hopes the conference symbolizes. The attack again highlighted the murderous character of attackers in the territories and their superiors and emphasized their solitary goal, which is to hit Jews wherever they are." He claimed that "peace lovers will not

allow these lunatics to harm the hope for peace" and added: "I send my sincere condolences to the bereaved families and wish a full and speedy recovery to the wounded."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres yesterday sharply condemned the attack at Tapuah. He said that crazy extremists are trying to torpedo the peace process even before it starts. Use of firearms at this point in time, he said, marks an escalation and it must be firmly prevented.

The Likud Knesset faction said last night in reaction to the attack that the Israeli delegation leaves for the talks in Madrid with heavy hearts and with skepticism regarding the sincerity of the intentions of Israel's enemies. The faction expressed outrage at the fact that the representatives of the Palestinian delegation in Madrid have failed to condemn the attack and did not call for an end to the killing.

Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) condemned the murderous attack last night. He believes that those who aim and shoot now want to harm the peace conference. He stressed that this conference cannot be canceled or stopped now, and it will continue until it subdues all its opponents.

MAPAM [United workers Party] Chairman El'azar Granot condemned the murder and called on the Palestinians to adopt the position of their sober kin who call for an end to the intifadah in the course of the negotiations and to refrain from supporting the extremists who urge stepped-up intifadah acts during that period. MAPAM called on the Israeli Government to simultaneously cease any settlement moves and prevent the extreme right from launching reprisals to counter the acts of the rejectionists in the Palestinian camp. [passage omitted]

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinuy) said that this is an attack by mad fundamentalists whose purpose is to sabotage the opening of the Madrid peace conference.

[An "exclusive" report from Madrid by 'Aqiva Eldar on the same page of the same issue of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ says that Gush Emunim, led by Yisra'el Meydad from the settlement of Shilo, yesterday "presented the attack as a sign indicating that the Palestinians and the PLO are not heading toward peace."]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 29 October carries another report from Madrid on pages 1 and 5 by Pinhas 'Inbari, who cites Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, as saying that "he regrets the terrorist ambush in Samaria, but thinks that Israel is indirectly culpable."]

'Vigilantes' Threaten To Execute Arabs

TA2910135291 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 91 p 2

[By Doron Me'iri]

[Text] The Shin Bet and the police are preparing for the possible establishment of a clandestine organization of Jewish vigilantes in the territories calling itself "Gid'on's Sword." The security forces believe that this is an organization that was set up in Tapuah, the stronghold of the "Kahana Lives" movement. Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, the son of Kakh founder Me'ir Kahana after whom the movement is named, lives in the settlement as well as Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov (Mike Kosowski), David Axelrod, and Ben-Zion Gepstein, who are suspected of murdering two Arabs from the village of Luban al-Sharqiyah following the murder of Me'ir Kahana in New York.

Yesterday, a short while after the terrorist attack in Samaria, a facsimile arrived at the HADASHOT newsroom which read: "Now the dice have been thrown, our organization takes upon itself to what has to be done. Therefore, seven Arabs will be executed before dawn. Remember Huwwarah. 'Gid'on's Sword.'"

Cabinet Ministers Comment on U.S. Moves, Tactics

Arens 'Worried,' 'Disappointed'

TA2910073391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0622 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens at Ben-Gurion Airport by Rafi Reshef and political correspondent Natan Gutman from Madrid—live]

[Text] Good morning, Defense Minister Arens.
[Arens] Good morning.

[Reshef] Do you have any details on the identity of the attackers involved in yesterday's incident?
[Arens] We still do not know the identity of the attackers; however, we do know that upon leaving Israel, Hanan 'Ashrawi, the person represented as the adviser to the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, called for an increase in violence in the streets. Yesterday's murderers apparently were people that were simply acting on her instructions.

[Reshef] Can you share any details of the investigation with us?
[Arens] No, I am sorry. I am about to leave for the site and I may have more information later.

[Reshef] Does this attack mandate a change in the deployment in the territories during these sensitive times?
[Arens] We have been confronting the problem of terrorism in the streets for a long time already to our great regret. We are well prepared and we will change our deployment as needed. These are not things on which we elaborate in the media.

[Reshef] Permit me to move over to the political issues. Is the decision to allot the Palestinians and Jordanians equal time with Yitzhaq Shamir a procedural matter of no consequence, or do you consider this to be a political statement by the United States?
[Arens] I would not say it is of no consequence. The important thing is that it contradicts the understandings

we had. Everyone agreed that there would be several delegations: Israeli, Syrian, and Jordanian-Palestinian. That means that the latter is one delegation; therefore, logic dictates that this delegation should have been given the same time allotted to the other delegations and not twice the time.

[Reshef] When you say that this contravenes agreements, are you referring to the letter of assurances?
[Arens] No. I am not referring to the letter of assurances; I am referring to those principles that were agreed upon prior to the convention in Madrid that is due to start tomorrow.

[Reshef] Yes, a few minutes ago Yitzhaq Shamir said that these were mistaken moves which stem from the trend to cultivate a negative element in the region. Where can this cultivation lead?
[Arens] I think that this cultivation is leading to expectations that have no chance of being fulfilled; therefore, I believe that this is making the negotiations and the reaching of agreements more difficult.

[Reshef] Natan Gutman is here with me in Madrid. Go ahead.

[Gutman] Minister Arens, does the U.S. intention to establish a de facto separation between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations point to any future developments that Israel should fear?
[Arens] It is difficult for me to pinpoint the intention behind this U.S. decision. We were not consulted on this nor did we discuss the matter; however, beyond this decision—which is indeed, as the prime minister put it, a mistaken move—I believe that the Arab world today expects the United States to pressure Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders. This expectation is based on announcements and declarations made by U.S. officials in recent months.

[Reshef] Minister Arens, are you worried about the recent U.S. moves?
[Arens] I am definitely worried and also disappointed. We have a unique relationship with the United States. The United States is the leader of the community of democratic nations in the world. Israel is one of the democratic countries in the world and the only democracy in the Middle East—a country that exists in an extremely hostile environment, surrounded by totalitarian states. I would have expected the United States to tend to support our positions as we stand at the outset of negotiations with the neighboring countries. Apparently, however, this is not the case.

[Reshef] Yes, but there seems to be a continuing U.S. trend regarding Israel, at least ever since the Gulf War. Do you see any way to mend fences or bridge the differences?
[Arens] Look, I do not think that this has anything to do with a rift. If the U.S. Administration thinks that Israel must return to the 1967 borders, then this is something we must fight, primarily through an information campaign in the United States and also one directed at the administration in order to convince them that first, there is no chance that this will happen, and second, that it would be a mistake to try to force us in that direction.

[Reshef] Are you under the impression that the U.S. intention is to return us to the 1967 borders?

[Arens] It is difficult for me to give you any definitive answer. It is clear that this is the impression in the Arab world. This impression was created by a number of declarations, one of which is the continued repetition of the slogan: territories for peace; second, the statement that the occupation must be ended; third, the assertion that settlements are an obstacle to peace. Combine all of these together, and then look at it through Syrian or Palestinian eyes. I believe that the conclusion is obvious.

[Reshef] Did the Americans deny this when we apprised them of our fears?

[Arens] I told Mr. Baker when he was in Israel that this was the impression of the Arab world. I do not think he would like to argue about impressions.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, did you read Shamir's speech? Were you a party to its formulation?

[Arens] No, I have not had the opportunity to read Shamir's speech.

[Reshef] You have no idea what he is going to say at the conference?

[Arens] I can imagine what he will say.

[Reshef] But you did not coordinate things in advance?

[Arens] I have not had time to read his speech. I have matters of my own to attend to. I have confidence in the prime minister, and I have no doubt that it will be a good speech.

[Reshef] At this stage of the talks, what would Israel consider an achievement?

[Arens] What is starting tomorrow does not fall within the framework of talks. It is merely a ceremonial opening.

[Reshef] Yes, but I was referring to the first round: the ceremony and then the bilateral talks.

[Arens] Let us leave that for when we reach the bilateral talks.

[Reshef] Is there room for any Israeli gesture on the eve of the conference?

[Arens] I do not understand what kind of gesture you are implying. What kind of gestures should we make? For 43 years we have been ready to make peace with the Arab countries. I think the gestures should come from those countries that have been conducting a policy of aggression against Israel for all these years.

[Reshef] Thank you, Defense Minister Arens.

Ne'eman on 'Steamroller Tactics'

TA2910103191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, called on the government to suspend its participation in the Madrid conference in light of what he termed the steamroller tactics employed by the United States and the slaps it gave Israel. Ne'eman also demanded that an additional settlement be established in the vicinity of yesterday's terrorist attack in Samaria.

Der'i Believes Shamir Capable of Concessions

TA2810113191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 91 p A5

[Interview with Interior Minister Arye Der'i by Orit Galili; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Galili] As one who takes a dovish line in this government, how do you feel on the eve of the Madrid conference?
[Der'i] I feel good. I felt glad when the government passed its resolution last Sunday. I felt that it was worth it, despite of all the suffering of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] movement.

[Galili] What does SHAS' suffering have to do with peace?
[Der'i] It is no secret that it brought down the government over Baker's questions. We were rightfully attacked for joining a purely right-wing government. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef [SHAS spiritual leader] was quoted as saying that some of the right-wing parties have a policy that will lead to bloodshed. I had the privilege to attend several discussions between Rabbi Yosef and Prime Minister Shamir, in which Shamir managed to convince the rabbi that he is committed to the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Galili] Do you see any chance for the process when it is being led by a hard-liner like Shamir?
[Der'i] My impression is that he is not irreversibly tough. He is a practical and pragmatic person. He has no problem making concessions when he believes in something. The first condition for him to make concessions, however, is faith. I believe that if Shamir finds in Madrid that something has changed in the Arab world—and it could even be declarative: the recognition of the State of Israel or the termination of the state of belligerency—I am convinced that the road to concessions—even painful concessions—will open for him.

[Galili] Is your conviction based on conversations between the two of you?
[Der'i] We have had many talks since the Gulf war, and it was then that I saw the change in the prime minister. I saw that he believes that something new is indeed taking place in the region. Unfortunately, over the past two months there has been a regression in the Arab countries, mainly in Syria.

[Galili] Do you consider yourself close to Shamir?
[Der'i] I do not know how to define such matters. I feel that we understand each other. He knows my views.

[Galili] If Shamir appears stubborn and quits the process, however, would you remain in the government?
[Der'i] I would not like to use terms such as red lines or to pressure Shamir with deadlines. I want to allow him to take the opportunity to make peace. He knows that we have placed our faith in him and empowered him with full responsibility. I see no alternative under the current political situation in Israel. At the same time, I told him clearly: If we reach a dead end and the talks blow up, we will have to go to the people. [passage omitted]

[Galili] Several ministers have said that they feel more confident with Shamir heading the delegation. Do you share this feeling?
[Der'i] More confident in what? There is an advantage in the fact that the prime minister is going to Madrid. This binds Israel to the peace process even more. The main lever that would lead the prime minister to make concessions and promote the process is his faith in it. That is why it is preferable for him to get a first-hand impression.

[Galili] Do you find the composition of our delegation favorable?
[Der'i] I do not attribute great importance to the delegation; their role will mainly be in propaganda. What is important is that the prime minister will deliver the address and determine the line. The importance will then shift to the bilateral talks.

[Galili] Will things move in the bilateral talks with Elyaqim Rubinstein and Yosi Ben-Aharon?
[Der'i] Rubinstein is an expert on autonomy. As for the Syrians, they need a tough counterpart. If they want to wrap things up, they had better do it with the man most authorized, the man who is closest to the prime minister, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Galili] Would you join a Labor-led government if this one collapsed?
[Der'i] You need a government backed by the people to take painful steps. I am not at all certain that the Labor Party—had it gone to Madrid—would have had that backing. The people are suspicious of them; they do not trust them. They do not have faith in their endurance. Only a minority in SHAS favors a coalition with Labor. [passage omitted]

[Galili] Will David Levi go to Madrid?
[Der'i] I believe the foreign minister will take part in the negotiations—if not in the first stage, then certainly in the second stage, the bilateral stage. I believe that if, in a sincere conversation between them, the prime minister were to tell Levi that he can make a contribution in Madrid, the foreign minister would accept. This problem can be overcome.

Deputy Minister Resigns; Tehiya Seeks Coalition

TA2810193791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Israel's right-wing Tehiya party is not leaving the government, after all. A meeting tonight reversed the original decision which was to have taken effect tomorrow, but Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen has resigned as deputy science minister. Leah Zinder heard about the change of mind from party spokesman Dani Dayan and MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni:

[Begin recording] [Dayan] We decided that at this stage, Tehiya will remain in the coalition, that as a Knesset faction, we will intensify the struggle against the Madrid conference and all its implications, and that Tehiya, as a united party, goes to the difficult struggle that we are leading against the Madrid conference, against any danger to settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, against any danger to the Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

[Zinder] Why has Ge'ula Kohen decided to resign as Yuval Ne'eman's deputy minister?

[Dayan] It is a personal decision of Ge'ula Kohen, and the main reason is that she wants to be fully engaged in the parliamentary and extraparliamentary struggle against the governmental policies vis-a-vis the peace conference. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Delegate Rubinstein: Delegation Not Hawks

TA2710094891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay this morning, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said that the ideological profile of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid conference is not one of hardliners or hawks, but faithfully represents the government's views. According to him, he regrets that in the end there is no representative of the opposition in the delegation.

Rubinstein, who heads the negotiating team with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, was asked whether he is empowered to make concessions. He said that he is authorized to hold negotiations and that it would not be wise to give more details to the media.

MK Mi'ari To Represent Israeli Arabs in Madrid

TA2910113891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Oct 91 p 3

[By Muhammad Khalila]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari, the chairman of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], left yesterday for Madrid to participate in the peace conference.

He claimed he will participate in the process on observer status and will represent the Arabs of Israel, who are not represented at the conference.

He added that Israeli Arabs, more than any other group, want to attain a just and viable peace in the region, so it is inconceivable for them not to participate in the conference.

He claimed he decided to go to Madrid following consultations with PLP leaders and Arab notables who are Israeli citizens, who encouraged him to take this move.

Labor Asked To Moderate Criticism During Talks

TA2810083491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir conferred this morning with Knesset Members Peres, Rabin, Ramon, and Ben-Eli'ezer to update them on the preparations for the Madrid conference. He asked them, among other things, to moderate their criticism during the conference. Mr. Shamir told the Labor Party leaders that he would like the bilateral negotiations after the opening ceremony to take place alternately in Israel and the Arab countries.

Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Gil Litman that he and his colleagues suggested that in Madrid the prime minister announce a settlement freeze in exchange for an end to the intifadah and the Arab boycott.

Herzog Cautious on Conference, Peace Prospects

TA2810060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report by David Essing on an address by President Herzog before a Hebrew University international seminar in Jerusalem on 27 October—recorded]

[Text] [Essing] President Hayim Herzog sounded a cautious note about the Madrid conference and the prospects for the peace negotiations:

[Herzog] The gathering will surely not be characterized by any great sympathy for Israel, and thus far the leaders of the Arab states have not deviated from their former positions. It is premature to predict what the peace process, stimulated by the United States, would bring to this region.

[Essing] Turning to the territories, the president said Arab terrorists continue to wage a campaign of intimidation against Palestinians who seek peace with Israel.

[Herzog] There is actually a miniature civil war going on in the territories administered by us today. In recent months, approximately 70 to 80 percent of the Palestinians killed in the so-called intifadah have been killed by Palestinians.

[Essing] Herzog warned that Israel could not depend upon the evaluation of the Western powers when it comes to Middle East developments:

[Herzog] The Western powers, as I have already noted, have literally fallen flat on their faces time after time again when it came to understanding and appreciating the world-shattering events in our area.

[Essing] The list was long: Afghanistan, the fall of the shah in Iran and the rise of Khomeyni, the Iran-Iraq war and the Iraqi evasion of Kuwait, not to speak of Saddam Husayn's weapons of mass destruction. On all these developments, the Western leaders had been taken by surprise. Even today, President Herzog warned, Western leaders fail to see that the greatest threat is not the Arab-Israeli dispute, but the danger of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of Muslim fundamentalists.

U.S. Plan for Golan Heights Settlement Noted

TA2710101791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 91 pp A1, 8

[By 'Aqiva Eldar, Ilan Shehori, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] The U.S. State Department prepared a plan for an interim settlement on the Golan Heights based on the principle of postponing a decision on sovereignty until the final stage of the negotiations—after the interim stage ends—on condition that Israel makes it clear from the start that it does not reject a permanent arrangement based on the principle of territories for peace, senior State Department officials told Israeli officials.

The Americans are relying on the latest pronouncements by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that peaceful relations with the Arabs have to be worked out before territorial arrangements are dealt with. The officials said that in return for Israel's agreement in principle on that issue, they believe it will be possible to persuade the Syrians to start talks on demilitarization and other security arrangements, and even normalization.

Washington is already preparing for the possibility that there will be a deadlock in the early stages of the bilateral talks in Madrid over the location for the direct dialogue between Israel and the Arab delegations. It has been learned that President Bush has decided to give a neutral speech which will not even touch on the controversial issues so that Israel will not be able to charge that he is not an honest broker.

If the Madrid talks do not show any progress within several weeks, the United States will offer the sides its mediatory services. The administration believes that the sides will not reject the suggestion and that it will be possible to get down to the actual talks under active U.S. mediation. [passage omitted]

Delegation, Prospects for Madrid Talks Viewed

Selection Criticized

TA2710122091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Likud Delegation"]

[Text] We mean no disrespect toward the U.S. secretary of state. Yet until further notice, he has no power to decide who will head the delegation to Madrid on behalf of the Israeli Government.

In this sense no one should question the prime minister's prerogative or authority, nor does it make any difference whether his decision to appoint himself in lieu of the foreign minister stemmed, among other things, from domestic political reasons or was a matter of prestige.

Not so with respect to the delegation's composition. Here we wonder about three things, which have clouded Yitzhaq Shamir's judgment.

First, it contradicts all logic that the Foreign Ministry should be completely neutralized, be excluded from the final discussion of the delegation's composition, and be prevented from heading the committees for the direct negotiations.

One can probably safely assume that if a Foreign Ministry staffer had been appointed head of at least one of those committees, David Levi would have controlled his own "pet peeve" and would not have stayed home.

Second, apart from the senior official echelon which is supposedly apolitical, it is hard to mute the hawkish-Likud character of the delegation. Only Shamir himself knows whether he meant to impress the world with a tough hawkish consensus or whether he needs a hawkish backing for the imminent compromises.

Third, even the prime minister cannot tell the opposition who will represent it. If Shamir approached the Labor Party with an offer to include its member on the delegation in a bid to accord the delegation a national character of sorts, could he have imagined that the opposition would make do with representation in the form of a passive ornament only?

The conclusion is that Shamir wanted to send a delegation reflecting his own ideological image, and that is what we have.

PLO 'Achievements' Outlined

TA2810135591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 91 p 2

[Oren Kohen editorial: "Another Bitter Pill To Swallow"]

[Text] If until yesterday Israeli politicians toyed with all sorts of formulations and hair-splitting wordings in a bid to prove that Israel will not talk directly with the Palestinians, the publication of the proposed agenda of the Madrid conference turned the tables and proved the opposite. The Americans view the Palestinian delegation as a sovereign delegation of one of the region's countries. To boot, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and his colleagues from the territories will be allotted the same time for their speeches as the Israeli prime minister and the representatives of Jordan, Syria, and the other participants.

With the soothing announcements from Jerusalem, which claimed that the Palestinians will form part of the Jordanian delegation notwithstanding, Israel swallowed the first bitter pill in the form of the separate invitations to the members of the Palestinian delegation and the Jordanian delegation. The Israeli protest was hardly voiced then: It is only a minor issue. And so, while Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who said that the PLO appointed the members of the Palestinian delegation, glides down Shamir's throat and brings him indigestion, along came the issue of the time slots to stick in his throat. Our ambassador Shoval yesterday submitted an official protest to the United States, but the way things look now, we will have to swallow this bitter pill as well.

The idea of the international conference was spawned in then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' brain in an effort to combat the intifadah and push the PLO out. Shamir torpedoed the move, contending that it will lead to a Palestinian state. Shamir knew what he was talking about. From whatever angle we look at the conference today, the PLO is in. And of all the conference's participants, the PLO is the only party to have scored achievements even before the opening speeches.

'Baseless Illusions' Seen for Shamir

TA2810135791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Oct 91 p 10

[Moti Bassok commentary: "Illusory Awakening"]

[Text] Many people in Israel believe that if the Americans lead the Middle East to a process that results in peace in the spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 242 ("territory for peace"), then they will give Israel and its 5 million citizens the most generous and significant aid the country has ever known. This greater largess will give that aid more importance than all the political, financial, or military assistance given to this country throughout its years of existence. True peace in recognized and secure borders has always been Zionism's dream. This is the prevailing view of at least 50 percent of Israelis. This was expressed very clearly in the massive Peace Now and left-wing demonstration in Tel Aviv on Saturday night. However, that view is not acceptable to the Israeli Government.

Prime Minister Shamir and the cabinet members closest to him, as well as Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, are approaching the Madrid conference feeling that something in U.S.-Israeli relations has gone awry since the Gulf war. They believe that the basic U.S. positions on the Middle East have undergone a substantial change in the wake of events in Eastern Europe, mainly in the USSR, and the Gulf War. The Bush-Baker administration may still support traditional U.S. stands regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, but contrary to previous administrations, it is far more determined that talk should be complemented by action—even without taking Israel into consideration, if there is no other way. Shamir and his associates believe that relations with the United States are currently at a record low, which is dangerous for Israel's future, certainly when going to a peace conference. The view shared among those who will represent Israel in Madrid is that the administration led by President Bush and Secretary Baker supports Israel's return to the 1967 borders with minor border alterations and wants to deprive Israel of its nuclear option. Admittedly, the incumbent administration favors one undivided city with respect to Jerusalem, but at the same time it talks about Arab or international sovereignty over its eastern part.

Shamir, Netanyahu, and their cronies believe that the special status Israel enjoyed in Washington in the last few decades has collapsed since the Gulf war. They base their assessment on direct, face-to-face talks among very high-level officials in Washington and Jerusalem, hints President George Bush dropped on various occasions, and conversations including closed meetings, and more. They further contend that this has also appeared openly in writing, including in the daily press. That is why they attach great importance to the meeting President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir are expected to hold on Tuesday. Shamir's circles say that this meeting would have been sufficient ground for the brutal dismissal of David Levi from heading the delegation to Madrid. The meeting is not meant to be merely a ceremonial or courteous encounter, at least not so far as Israel is concerned. For his part, Shamir will make every effort to warm up U.S.-Israeli relations, clear the air with the leader of the world, and, more importantly, hear whether, in view of the Israeli concessions on the eve of the conference, the United States will be ready to resume the special relations it had with Israel prior to the Gulf war. Last Friday, Secretary of State James Baker gave a glimpse of what the president's reply would be: The United States will unfreeze the loan guarantee money as progress is made in the peace process.

The above analysis of the new Israel-Washington fabric of relations and the U.S. objectives in the peace process is accepted by many in the left. The difference is in the conclusion drawn from it. Netanyahu maintains that we can and must change the U.S. positions. He believes the way to do that is by conducting a militant information campaign, mainly in the United States, against the administration's moves and trends. Yes, he means nothing less than that. Following the fast one Shamir pulled on Levi, and in light of the great respect the prime minister has for Netanyahu, it can be safely assumed that very soon, in fact immediately after the Madrid conference, we will see the deputy foreign minister acting on his ideas. He will be accompanied by the best of Israel's right-wing speakers and their supporters among the U.S. Jewish community.

The left believes that this line is extremely dangerous because it could backfire, trigger harsh countermeasures, and lead to anti-Israel moves in Washington which will dwarf the damage suffered by the Jewish lobby, Israel's supporters in Washington, and Israel itself in the fight for the loan guarantees. The left believes that Israel

should read the writing scrawled on every wall and draw all the conclusions; otherwise, today's single-superpower world will deal it more painful blows before it succumbs to U.S. dictates. The left thinks Israel should do everything to share the U.S. view on the peace process, accept the world's interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, strive for compromise agreements involving territories for peace with the Arabs (via an interim stage of autonomy in the West Bank, perhaps also in the Gaza Strip), meanwhile attempting to attain maximum peace and maximum security for Israel. At this stage the United States is still ready to listen to and very often also accept Israel's demands that full peace prevail and that its security interests be guaranteed. Admittedly, Israel has often missed the boat by entertaining dreams and indulging in baseless illusions. Thus, it will be unable to get now what it could have gotten in 1967, 1977, 1982, and even five years ago; but it can still hop on the boat. A policy of naysaying in the peace process will ultimately lead Israel to a forced settlement, even if it is called something else. A forced settlement will likely show far less consideration for its desires and security requirements.

The team that will represent Israel in Madrid is from the extreme right, and it shares the very clear view of "not an inch": Yitzhaq Shamir, Binyamin Netanyahu, Dr. Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, 'Uzi Landau, Sara Doron, Yosi Ben-Aharon, Elyaqim Rubinstein, Salay Meridor, Zalman Shoval. This is a far more radical team than the one Foreign Minister David Levi originally intended to dispatch. Perhaps this is for the better, though. A radical right-wing performance in the conference will allow Bush, Baker, and Western Europe to more accurately brace for the next stages of the peace process; it will meanwhile give the prime minister the opportunity to see and realize the limits and political boundaries of his "not an inch" policy.

Demonstration Urges Peace Without Concessions

TA2810205591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Many people are participating in a demonstration in Tel Aviv's Malkhey Yisra'el Square initiated by the right-wing camp to bolster the government on its way to the peace conference. All the speakers referred to the attack at the Tapuach Junction tonight in which two settlers were killed and five others wounded and stressed that Palestinian terrorism once again shows that it does not want peace. The speakers called on the government to achieve peace without making concessions. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that Ministers Qatzav, Ne'eman, Sciaki, Ze'ev, and Eytan are participating in the demonstration. The police beefed up their presence around the square after receiving the news about the Tapuach attack.

Hizballah, Others Intend To Increase Attacks

TA2910075791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] On the eve of the Madrid conference, security sources say that Israel has obtained information that the terrorist organizations, mainly Hizballah, intend to increase their terrorist attacks to make good on their declaration that they plan to sabotage the conference. The sources told our army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe, that Israel's participation in the talks will not tie its hands behind its back and will not impede its freedom of action in the efforts to curtail that terrorist activity.

The sources added that under Syrian instructions, Lebanon has not been doing a thing to prevent the terrorist organizations' operations from its soil. They called on the international community to exhort Syria and Iran, which sponsor the terrorist organizations, to order them to put an end to their activity and assist the Lebanese Government in terminating these operations.

Police Strengthens Force To Prevent Attacks

TA2810205891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The police are beefing up their forces around the country, especially in Jerusalem, prior to the opening of the Madrid conference. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that in a special meeting summoned by acting police commissioner Commander Gabi Lest, the officers were instructed to increase patrols and to take measures to foil attempted attacks by various elements. Police and border police forces in Jerusalem will be increased. It was decided not to prohibit Arabs from the territories from entering Jerusalem and the Green Line but to make checks more stringent and to restrict the entry of young Arabs.

Arabs Banned From Jerusalem

TA2910052791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Arab residents of the territories are being prevented from entering Jerusalem from today for an unspecified period. Following last night's terror attack, it was decided to place police forces throughout the country on a special footing until the end of the opening ceremony in Madrid.

No Ban on Arab Entry Into Jerusalem

TA2910120791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] In the wake of yesterday's bus ambush in Samaria police have been placed on special alert throughout the country until the end of the opening stage of the Madrid conference.

In contrast to earlier reports, there is no ban on Arabs from the territories entering the Jerusalem area. [passage omitted]

Door of Spanish Consulate in Jerusalem Torched

TA2910083491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Kakh activists struck again in Jerusalem last night. This time their target was the Spanish Consulate building on Jerusalem's Ramban Street. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the entrance door to the consulate was torched, and graffiti scrawled near the site read: Spain and the United States are the enemies of Israel; there will not be another Inquisition. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Opposition Urges Armed Intifadah

TA2810132391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Oct 91 p 4

[By Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The three major rejectionist organizations—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Democratic and the Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine—have started a alternative unified leadership of the intifadah. Yesterday they issued a leaflet calling for a general strike to protest "the conference for the elimination of the Palestinian problem" and urging petitions and demonstrations against the Madrid conference. The leaflet calls for the renewal of the armed struggle and uses words and phrasing of the early intifadah leaflets, such as the call "to set fire to the ground under the feet of the occupiers."

The leaflet attacks the PLO leadership, mainly Khalid al-Hasan, and opines that the current political process will only lead to an increased settlement drive, and will end in a transfer. In Hebron, Hamas issued a leaflet stating that the two representatives of the city to the conference, Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari and Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, represent no one and should therefore resign. [passage omitted]

Triangle Arabs Detained for Intifadah Acts

TA2710102891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] A father and son from the village of Barta'a near the 'Iron River were detained on suspicion of providing shelter and assistance to an Arab from Samaria who is suspected of security offenses. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar notes that last week, five Arabs from the Triangle villages were detained on suspicion of aiding intifadah activists and other suspects of security crimes in the Samaria villages.

Near al-Tayyibah, inside a cave, a cache of knives, metal chains, masks, uniforms, and spray paint was found. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the cave was exposed after the detention of four members of a gang who terrorized residents in the area and painted graffiti in favor of the Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. All the suspects pleaded guilty to the charges against them, and the head of the gang led the police to the cave.

Soldier 'Critically' Injured in Nabulus 27 Oct

TA2810201091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 91 p 1

[By Shlomo Dror, Aharon Klein, and Buqi Na'e]

[Excerpts] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Sergeant 'Ofer Shar'abi was critically wounded when a rock thrown from a Nabulus casbah rooftop landed on his head. He was evacuated to a hospital in an unconscious state.

A stone hurled in Hebron hit an IDF officer in the jaw, causing a slight injury. [passage omitted]

A homemade bomb was discovered inside a stone barricade near Tqoa' last night. The bomb was defused by an IDF bomb disposal squad. The barricade also yielded two Molotov cocktails.

IDF Shelling in South Lebanon Continues

TA2910094191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] There is a lot of tension in southern Lebanon. A UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shelled the village of Tibnit, north of the security zone. The spokesman said several shells were launched at the village of Qabrikha this morning. Our correspondent adds that all the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in southern Lebanon have been put on special alert.

IDF Soldiers Wounded; 'Terrorists' Killed

TA2910120191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] An announcement we have just received from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: Five IDF soldiers were wounded this morning by terrorist fire north of Biranit on the northern border. Two terrorists were killed and another was wounded and caught in the exchanges of fire. The five wounded soldiers were evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Our correspondent Ge'ula Even adds:

Two LAW missiles and a rifle antitank grenade launcher were fired from southern Lebanese territory at an IDF patrol that was moving along the northern border fence at 0300 in the morning. One of the soldiers on the patrol was slightly wounded. The soldiers returned the fire. Additional IDF forces arrived at the site and began to conduct searches in pursuit of the terrorists. Light weapons and RPG fire was directed at them as well. Four

IDF soldiers were wounded by this fire; three sustained medium injuries and one was slightly wounded.

Two terrorists were killed and another was wounded and captured in the course of the pursuit. The commander of the Northern Command arrived on the scene in the course of the incident and supervised the IDF operation. The defense minister, the chief of staff, and other senior officers arrived at the site later and were briefed by the commander of the Northern Command and the specific sector's commanders.

The terrorists belonged to the Islamic Jihad organization and the (Shikaki) group. An announcement in Lebanon said their intention was to reach Zar'it. Military sources emphasized that the IDF soldiers' reaction apparently prevented a terrorist attack on a civilian target.

Security Moves Yield 'Drop' in Infiltrations

TA2310185591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Although the situation in the North has been heating up, there has been a significant drop in terrorist infiltrations across the Jordanian border due to increased security measures by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Jordanian Army. However, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says attempts to step up infiltrations across the River Jordan into Israel are expected as the Middle East peace talks get under way:

Since October last year there have been 17 infiltrations across the Jordan by terrorist gangs or armed individuals, the last time in June. A peak was reached between mid-March and April, when three infiltrations close to each other resulted in the death of an Israeli civilian and the wounding of two civilians and four soldiers. Since then, both the IDF and the Jordanian Army have carried out significant changes in security measures along the Jordan River, which provides a common border for the 180-km or so between Lake Tiberias in the North and the Dead Sea to the South. A significant number of additional observation posts have been established by the two forces in their respective territories and there are frequent patrols along both sides of the river bank during the day and at night. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 23 October adds that another measure is the "detention of suspect elements."] The result—there has not been a single successful infiltration across the river into Israel since the start of June.

There are three types of hostile infiltrations: those by Muslim fundamentalists, whose numbers in Jordan are on the increase; those by members of Palestinian terrorist organizations, which have been reestablishing themselves in Jordan; and thirdly by individual Palestinians who are motivated by religious incitement or intifadah fervor. The first two groups are now expected to try and carry out activities aimed at disrupting the peace talks. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Hawatimah, and Habash have formed an alliance to launch activities against us from Jordan, said one Israeli source, and we expect trouble from them all in the days ahead.

However, not all infiltration attempts are one way or hostile. Just recently an IDF night patrol caught a couple from a village near Jericho: a married man of 30 and a 16-year-old girl who were trying to steal across the border to Jordan and a new life there together.

Six Iranians Held in Custody After Infiltration

TA2810122291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] In the magistrate's court in Elat, the detention of six Iranian citizens was extended this morning by seven days. They had infiltrated several days ago and were caught by the defense forces as they crossed the border from Jordan, several kilometers north of Elat.

In the course of the hearing, the defendants asked for political asylum, claiming that they had been opponents of the Ayatollah Khomeyni and had escaped from jail and crossed to Iraq, but there, too, they had been arrested. Their story went on that after several months in an Iraqi prison, they had again escaped, but had been captured by the Kurds. Once more they claim to have escaped and to have entered Jordan, but the Jordanians had also refused to give them shelter, so they decided to try Israel.

Conference Supporters, Opponents Clash in Amman

JN2810192291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] In Amman, a speech rally has turned into clashes between supporters and opponents of the Madrid conference. The Muslim Brotherhood and the leftists called the rally to protest the Madrid conference. When the participants were prepared to deliver their speeches this evening scores of the youths attending the rally began to chant slogans in support of the conference and King Husayn. Clashes took place between the two parties, resulting in material losses only.

Further on Fighting

JN2810205991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman, from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] A rally was held under the slogan "No to the Madrid Conference—the Conference for Liquidating the Palestinian Cause and American Control of the Region." But it ended in disarray after an estimated 200 people began chanting support for the conference and King Husayn, who was hailed as a hero of peace. The chants by supporters and opponents of the conference then degenerated into fist fights spreading panic among the rally participants. Chairs were used by some to smash glass windows, while others tried to escape from the exits of the basement hall of the Professional Association complex, where the rally was being held. Outside the hall, dozens of riot police took up positions, but did not intervene.

Layth Shubaylat, an Islamic member of the House of Representatives, said in reaction: This is about a conspiracy to suppress any dissenting voices opposed to the peace conference.

Meanwhile, an authorized source commented by saying the Madrid peace conference supporters as well as opponents have a right to express their stands.

TIMES Views Confrontation

JN2910074591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sirin Halasah]

[Text] Amman—Opponents and proponents of the Madrid peace conference clashed on Monday night, aborting a public rally organised by Islamic and Nationalistic movements to voice their opposition to the peace parley.

The rally, held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, was organised by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Tahrir Islamic Party, the Arab Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary Party, and the Jordan National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) as well as several parliamentarians.

The rally started at 6 p.m. with a Koran recital. As the recital continued a number of youths stood up and started chanting pro-peace slogans. Opponents, of the U.S.-led peace process countered with shouts of "Allahu Akbar." Eyewitnesses said some youths jumped toward the podium where a number of organisers, mainly parliamentarians were sitting and yanked the microphone.

An eyewitness who refused to be identified said some others stood up and started throwing chairs at the windows of the meeting room. Afterwards the two opposing sides physically clashed and some eyewitnesses reported slight injuries among some members of the crowd. Police "stood by watching the two groups clash, but did not interfere," according to the eyewitness. No police comment was immediately available.

Muhammad Abu-Faris, a Muslim Brotherhood parliamentarian, started to recite verses of Koran in the hope to calm the crowd, but the interruptions continued and the rally was postponed to a date to be announced later. Police in the meantime surrounded the main hall and started clearing it out.

Muslim activist, Shaykh Sa'ud Abu-Mahfuz, was seen being taken away in a police car. A police officer denied the Shaykh was being detained and said that he was simply driven "home with police escort."

There were some blood stains in the deserted hall as well as upturned chairs and glass all over the floor. Leaflets were left on the podium by the organisers, who were manhandled by unknown men.

Lower House of Parliament member Layth Shubaylat, whose opposition to the peace conference is well-known was reported as saying that the whole "charade was organised in order to sabotage the rally. It is a conspiracy."

Hizballah Rejects Madrid Talks, Urges Struggle

NC2910075691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] On the eve of the Madrid conference, Hizballah has issued the following statement:

In these critical moments, the entire nation is passing through one of its most fateful stages after the U.S. pressure has succeeded in bringing the Arab countries to agree to participate in the conference of capitulation to the U.S.-Israeli administration. Without doubt the main goals of that conference are the liquidation of the Palestinian issue and the perpetuation of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

The statement adds: We declare to international public opinion and to the entire nation that the kind of peace Israel and the United States seek is a conspiracy against the destiny of the entire Islamic nation. As for the peace we believe in and call for, it only can be achieved by eliminating Israel from existence and liberating all the territories of usurped Palestine.

The Hizballah statement voiced its absolute rejection of the capitulation conference to be held in Madrid. It urged everyone to live up to their responsibilities at this historic and critical moment by restoring the usurped territories and defending the oppressed Palestinian people.

The statement urged the establishment of an alliance among the Arab and Islamic peoples based on support for the intifadah and the Islamic and national resistance. The statement rejected the Lebanese Government's participation in the Madrid conference.

The statement concluded by calling upon all Muslims to do their part in struggling against the Zionists until the state of absolute evil, Israel, is removed from existence.

Lubrani: Israel 'Ready To Negotiate' Withdrawal

NC2910083991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activity in the south, has announced from New York that Israel is ready to negotiate its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He said: I believe withdrawal is part of what negotiations between ourselves and the Lebanese should concern. Lubrani pointed to the Israeli conditions on this matter, foremost of which is to guarantee the requirements for Israel's security in southern Lebanon in a strip about 10 km wide.

Al-Hirawi: No Peace While South Occupied

NC2810094991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East without ridding south Lebanon of the Israeli occupation and rebuilding Lebanon.

In an interview published by the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ today, President al-Hirawi said that by separating Resolution 425 from other Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, Lebanon aims to make Israel leave southern Lebanon as soon as possible.

Israel Reiterates Demand To Share Water

NC2810104191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Israel has reiterated its covetous designs toward southern Lebanon and its waters. The Israeli stand was spelled out by Antoine Lahd, commander of the southern militia, who added that Israel demands security arangements with Lebanon and a share of its water.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAH, Lahd said any withdrawal must be preceded by negotiations and conditions. He added that there will be no withdrawal without definite guarantees for the region's security and future. Lahd said it will be in Lebanon's interest to establish goodneighborly relations with Israel to guarantee its security and future and to enable Israel to obtain its share of water without any dispute.

In his statement, Lahd said any other withdrawal will be out of question.

Continued Military Activity in South Reported

Israeli Shelling Continues

NC2810111991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli forces shelled Jabal Safi and Mlikh and al-Luwayzah with heavy artillery this morning. In another development, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has canceled all leave and recalled the personnel already on leave.

Israelis Reinforce Eastern Sector

NC2810131791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation troops brought reinforcements to the eastern sector of the occupied strip in the past 24 hours. According to information reported this morning, a convoy of 14 vehicles took positions in the Ibil al-Saqiy plain yesterday. Of these vehicles, three were Merkava tanks and five were trucks towing 155-mm and 175-mm long-range guns. Another force of four tanks and five troop carriers has been seen along the Marj 'Uyun-al-Hasbani road. The force was seen taking positions around the al-Hasbani spring this morning.

In another development, a force of the Lahd militia entered the village of Kafr Shuba yesterday and arrested Shadi Ahmad al-Qadiri, a soldier in the Lebanese Army, and took him to the al-Khiyam prison.

SLA Involved in Clash

NC2910072091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has received information that a clash has been taking place since 0400 today between a patrol from the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and an armed group which was seen moving between the towns of Rumaysh and 'Ayta al-Sha'b near the Lebanese-Israeli border. The information adds that Israeli planes are participating in the operation. Roads and crossings in the western sector have been closed.

Hizballah Claims Bombing

NC2910104691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] AFP cited security sources in southern Lebanon as saying that two Israeli soldiers were killed this morning when an explosion took place in their car inside the security belt zone. The sources said the car was destroyed at 0905 today near the village of 'Aramta in the Jazzin area.

Meanwhile, a Western news agency said that Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the operation. Israeli troops and the South Lebanese Army have brought reinforcements to the scene of operation.

Further on Bombing

NC2910104191 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 29 (AFP)—Two [as received] Israeli soldiers were killed early Tuesday when a remote-controlled bomb exploded in southern Lebanon, security services reported. They said the victims were travelling in a vehicle near the village of 'Aramta in an Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon when the device, hidden along the roadside, exploded.

The blast occurred at 9.05 a.m. (0705 GMT) and was one of several anti-Israeli attacks in the past 24 hours in the run-up to the opening of a Middle East peace conference in Madrid on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Israeli Patrol Ambushed

NC2910113991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] A security source in the south announced today that an Israeli patrol was ambushed at dawn today near Lebanon's southern border. The source told AFP many patrol members suffered bullet wounds. He added that the patrol was attacked with machine guns and anti-armor cannon fire at 0500 in the area of Marwahin, 500 meters from the Israeli border. The clashes continued for half an hour, after which the attackers escaped.

The source noted that an 150-man Israeli unit backed by seven tanks combed the area in search of the armed group. News from the south reported Israeli Air Force flights at 0900 today over Sidon city and camps.

Three Glider Planes Downed

NC2910074791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0618 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Three glider planes led by three suicide pilots took off from al-Biqa' in the direction of the Israeli border. Anti-aircraft guns were fired on them from the border zone, downing them in the security strip. A large-scale combing operation for the pilots is being conducted in the region. We have unconfirmed reports about the death of one of them.

Reports from the south said several Israeli planes last night flew over Qabrikha, Tulin, and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah. Flares were fired over the region. The region also came under cannon fire and forward Israeli positions were reinforced.

The situation also was tense in al-Nabatiyah between Amal and Hizballah. Shooting took place between the two sides, and the Lebanese Army intervened and arrested a number of people taking part in the shooting.

Search for Pilots Continues

NC2910092691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0905 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] The search continues for the three pilots whose gliders were shot down by antiaircraft fire as they were crossing Lebanese-Israeli airspace early today. Our correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli warplanes have been flying over Sidon and its environs since this morning. In another development, four members of the agent Lahd militia were injured when resistance men ambushed a militia patrol near Bayt Lif today.

Glider Pilot Captured

NC2910111391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Israeli troops are continuing to search for the Palestinian pilots whose gliders were shot down inside the security strip early this morning. According to exclusive information by our radio, one of the pilots was captured south of Bint Jubayl. According to some sources, the captured pilot most likely is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes and helicopters are currently conducting intensive flights over the area where the gliders were shot down. Our correspondent has reported that Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah villages are coming under heavy artillery bombardment.

Islamic Jihad Links Ankara Blasts to Madrid

NC2910070091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] An American soldier has been killed and the Egyptian Embassy's press attache injured in two explosions in Ankara. The Islamic Jihad Organization claimed responsibility for the explosions. In a telephone call to the Beirut Security Directory, a person who said he belongs to the Islamic Jihad Organization stated: We will not allow the imperialist powers to share the Middle East during the Madrid conference.

President Al-Hirawi Pays Official Visit to Italy

WA2810202291

For Rome and Beirut reportage on the visit by President al-Hirawi to Italy, including reports on his talks with Italian President Cossiga, Italian Prime Minister Andreotti, Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi, and Pope Joh Paul II, please see the Italy and Vatican City section of the 28 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Al-Asad Instructs Conference Delegation

JN2910130291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister and head of the Syrian delegation, and members of the delegation to the Middle East peace conference due to be held in Madrid. His excellency gave them instructions before their departure for Madrid.

Al-Asad Discusses Peace Conference

JN2710173191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has given an interview to Richard Blythstone, senior correspondent of the U.S. television network CNN. Following is the text.

[Blythstone] You have been at the helm in Syria for over 20 years now. In the last two years, the world has been swept by many events at a breathtaking pace. Do you think we are about to witness a major event at the Middle East peace conference?

[Al-Asad] We hope so. We hope that we will see a momentous event represented by the establishment of peace. It is with such hopes that we are going to the Madrid peace conference.

[Blythstone] Mr. President: You have a reputation in the Middle East as a realistic man, and as such, do you expect the conference to produce the ideal outcome, or do you think it will turn into a forum where Arabs and Israelis sling mud at each other?

[Al-Asad] It very much depends on the intentions of the Israeli Government: Are they willing to make peace, or are they bent on maintaining the status quo. As I see it, we are left with one of two choices: Either the conference produces good results, or we stay where we are. This is because in a matter of war or peace and insofar as our circumstances are concerned, there are only the two options I have pointed out: Either peace with all its attendant requirements or stagnation.

[Blythstone] Mr. President: Would you have allowed Syria to participate in the peace conference had you not been hopeful to gain something?

[Al-Asad] Had we not had any hope at all, there would not have been any justification for the efforts being made by many nations, including Arabs, the United States, the USSR, and Europe. Naturally, the United States plays a major role in regard to these efforts. Had we not had hope, these efforts would have been unjustifiable. Consequently, we would not have had any reason to go to the conference.

[Blythstone] Has the United States or the USSR—since they are the cosponsors of the conference—given you any specific guarantees? Has the United States promised you, for instance, to put pressure on Israel regarding certain topics? Has the USSR promised you anything of this kind?

[Al-Asad] The United States and the USSR have given the so- called assurances to the Arabs and Israelis. The basic substance of these assurances is commitment to UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Basically, what we want from the United States and the USSR and other countries, particularly the permanent Security Council members, is to abide by the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which were issued by the Security Council and endorsed by these countries. What we want from the United States is to abide by UN resolutions, which won its approval a long time ago.

[Blythstone] Practically speaking, has President Bush or Secretary Baker told you, for instance, that if you go to the conference, they will secure a deal for you regarding the Golan?

[Al-Asad] They did not say this to me. They said they will abide by UN resolutions and U.S. positions and decisions made or approved by the United States through its consecutive presidencies.

[Blythstone] Israeli Prime Minister Shamir announced that he would head his country's delegation to the conference. Do you believe it would be a good idea if an Arab leader, perhaps yourself, Mr. President, goes to the conference on your own initiative, to inject the conference with a personal element, a more vigorous element, in order to define the course of the conference?

[Al-Asad] The success, the progress, or the retreat of the conference does not depend on who will represent the governments at the conference but on the policy decided by the governments before they send their delegations to the peace conference in Madrid.

[Blythstone] When the conference ends and the peace process begins, it is negotiations that will be the most important. It seems that the venue for the negotiations has not yet been determined.

[Al-Asad] Initially, the negotiations will take place where the conference is held, but the venue for the negotiations has not been discussed as an independent topic and no one discussed this issue with Syria, although we read some media report that the venue for the negotiations is not that of the conference.

[Blythstone] Mr. President, it seems to me that people in the Middle East have their own special way of settling matters, a unique way that appears strange to some in the West. This big conference is being held within a western framework. It is being held under the auspices of the two superpowers. Can the conference's framework constitute an obstacle for the participants? Can its framework turn into a Middle Eastern one?

[Al-Asad] We are all human beings, but there is no doubt that every nation has its own characteristics, and it is necessary for those who want to deal with this region's

problems to understand the characteristics of those living in it. Trying to understand these characteristics is not difficult or complicated for those who want to understand them. Therefore, it is not strange to discuss this region's problem within the framework of a conference, which is held in a European country and with which Europeans, Americans, French, and others deal. In today's world, which is becoming smaller and smaller as a result of scientific, cultural, and technological progress, there must be a worldwide interest in a major issue like the one with which we are dealing; namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict, which affects, to a large extent, security is vast areas of the world and even world security and peace.

[Blythstone] Your government says the essence or the substance of the conference should be Resolutions 242 and 338. However, there seems to be small "confidence-building" measures that can be taken by the two parties, and these do not cost much. Israel for example can make an initiative over the River Jordan waters. Syria can make an initiative to stop the Arab boycott of Israel. Someone must take a first step. Do you think there is someone who can take such a step?

[Al-Asad] I believe that in circumstances like ours, confidence-building measures are not the best way to resolve the problem under discussion. Resolutions by the international legitimacy have been issued on the problem we are discussing now, and these are clear resolutions. If we really want peace, then we must implement these resolutions. This implementation will take us directly to the atmosphere of peace. It will take us to confidence itself, which goes beyond the confidence-building measures.

If we start going into confidence-building measures—which, in this case, will be many measures, and not only one—we will waste time and get into labyrinths. The time and measures we need here may be the same or even more than the time and measures we will search for and take, and which are needed by the peace process as a whole. So why do we not walk on a straight line to the objective we want, if we really want peace.

[Blythstone] Yes. But, Mr. President, you do not expect Shamir to say we are ready to immediately withdraw from the occupied territories and implement the UN resolutions. This does not happen at once. What is the best thing you expect to happen immediately at the conference?

[Al-Asad] We expect the UN resolutions to be put on the table and to discuss them all, and to discuss how to implement them and what are the peace measures which these resolutions require and refer to.

This is the path, and the confidence-building measures taken by some persons and some countries—as mentioned in your answer—will yield no results. And the saying that confidence should be built between warring parties, some of whom occupy the land of others—while millions are refugees—is theoretical in such circumstances. The objective of this saying cannot be materialized. Many people say that confidence-building measures can be adopted among different countries and can achieve results like what took place between the East and West. But, there were no wars between the East and West, neither was there occupation of other countries. There were political differences, political conflict. In such cases, confidence-building measures might be useful for proceeding toward a better understanding.

In our case, as I said, one party occupies the land of the other parties; one party displaces millions of Arab citizens. What measure can build confidence among us here in the region other than straightening out matters. In other words, each party should take its rights as stipulated by the international laws and as embodied in the resolutions of legitimacy issued by the UN Security Council.

[Blythstone] Mr. President, it seems to me that you are adopting a hard stand. It is also clear that Israel is also adopting a hard stand. What hope will remain for this conference to achieve anything?

[Al-Asad] I do not believe that we on our part are adopting a hard stand. We are adopting the stand on which the world countries are unanimous, and which was interpreted in their resolutions, and nothing else. We are adopting a practical stand, and saying that the path of peace is the path of these resolutions. It is not useful, in fact, it is not necessary to discuss matters that are outside these resolutions. As I said, matters will be complicated if we resort to these things as a path toward peace. How can a person be described as a hardliner if he says: I adhere to international legitimacy, to international law, and to the UN Charter.

I would like to affirm that it is incorrect for any person whatever his position and wherever he lives to describe the one who adheres to the UN resolutions, which are the legitimacy of this world, as a hardliner, and to describe the one who does not adhere, or even rejects, these resolutions, as indulgent, or a peace seeker.

The first, and perhaps the only, evidence of anyone's desire for peace—in this region and elsewhere in the world—is his compliance with resolutions of the international legitimacy, which it set as the road to peace.

We stand for UN resolutions and their implementation. You hear as we do everyday that Israel stands neither for these resolutions nor for their implementation. In any case, we are going to the Madrid conference on the basis of these resolutions. This means that our adherence to the resolutions shows that we are at one with the totality of the debates underlying them. These resolutions formed the foundations on which Arabs and non-Arabs in the region, and the United States, Europe, and the USSR agreed to call a conference. It is impossible and illogical for us to call this a hard line. And yet, supposing that during the peace conference such proposals were made at a point where the negotiations or talks were

making headway, and that they fell under the heading of confidence-building measures that could give momentum to or quicken the pace of peace process, we might approve these measures, since this would not be the same as saying from the outset and before we began that confidence-building measures will help bring peace.

[Blythstone] Could you, Mr. President, give examples of confidence-building measures on both sides?

[Al-Asad] I do not see the need for me to give specific examples. By way of explanation, however, let us assume that, during the talks, we begin to discuss what we might describe as a station along the road to peace as stipulated by UN resolutions, where it was proposed that one of the parties do something in the way of confidence-building that should advance the peace process. If it proves acceptable and useful to all of us, we might approve it. But what exactly are these measure? Will they be inspired by the talks and prevailing atmosphere there? Will they move us forward toward peace or will they take us backward?

[Blythstone] Allow me to say this: Among the Israelis, there are some who have been viewing you for a long time as someone who wants to destroy Israel, that is to destroy their state and destroy them. Why do you not say now, through CNN, publicly and clearly that you do not have an intention to destroy Israel?

[Al-Asad] If this is their view of us, what do you think our view of them is, especially since we have statements and speeches by many of the Israeli leaders, as well as other things that support what I say, which clearly expose their objectives in expansion, acquisition of territories, and displacing millions of people to add to the Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese who were displaced in the past. If this is the case, then we can say—and we are confident about what we say—about them much more than what they can say about us. But, let us put this aside and go back to the issue of destruction.

We say we want the implementation of the UN resolutions and we adhere to them. Any one who reads the UN resolutions would not find anything that refers to the destruction of others, whether the others were Arabs or Israelis. This in itself points to the position of Syria and the Arabs on the peace process. After all, how can we call for peace and be seen as seeking destruction. How can we adhere to peace and keep calling for it for years and, at the same time, seek destruction?

You can refer to my speech during the October War, when fighting between us and Israel was at a climax. I made a speech to our people and the world. I recall I said we do not wish death or destruction on anyone, but we want to stop death and destruction from befalling us. You can also refer to a great number of interviews I gave to various media in the West, East, as well as Arab media. I asserted in them that our people and the Arab nation seek peace, want to achieve peace, and abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy. After all that, can it be said that we are hard-liners and seek destruction while the others are peace doves. We wish they were doves, because we could have achieved peace. Now, let me tell you that we do not seek destruction, but we want just and comprehensive peace.

[Blythstone] Let me talk a little about the Golan Heights. You assumed power after you lost the Golan Heights during the 1967 war, and your goal has always been the restoration of these heights. If negotiations make progress on the Golan Heights and fail on the Gaza Strip, will you accept a separate agreement with Israel on the Golan Heights?

[Al-Asad] No one in the region, outside the region, Europe, the United States, Eastern Europe, or other areas of the world has interest in the absence of a comprehensive peace in this region. Any separate peace or any separate or partial peace process will not achieve peace, security and stability in this region, and any party continuing the state of war with Israel will bring back complicated circumstances to the region and will lead to comprehensive wars in the future.

Therefore, comprehensive wars and comprehensive conflict necessitate a comprehensive peace. Here, I am stressing what is principled and useful to all parties, and from this regio.. we can provide evidence which is known to everybody.

I can assure you that if we all are serious in achieving peace, we can overcome all the obstacles blocking peace, and I assert, at the same time, that we the Arabs are serious.

[Blythstone] As I have understood, you say you do not believe in the western expression: half a loaf is better than nothing; that is, you will refuse to reach agreement with Israel on the Golan Heights while negotiations on the West Bank, for example, go on?

[Al-Asad] I do not discuss tactics of action. I am discussing a comprehensive solution. This does not mean that a step here should be coupled with another step there. I do not mean that negotiations among the different committees should take place simultaneously. No one insists on this because it is impractical. I am discussing the final solution, which must be comprehensive. However, it is natural that a committee here will move quickly and another committee there will move slowly. This is natural for discussions and will certainly take place.

[Blythstone] Are you optimistic about a peace treaty eventually being signed by all parties?

[Al-Asad] Of course, we have to reach a peace agreement if we want peace. I think that this is clearly in the interest of everbody.

[Blythstone] Let us talk about your relationship with the United States. This relationship has drastically changed in recent years. What has happened? Who changed its

stands? Is it the United States, yourself, global changes, or is it the famous shrewdness of President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Al-Asad] You can ask U.S. officials about matters related to the United States. In our opinion, there have been several developments. Our views have come closer without there being any prearrangement. May be this is the outcome of what you have mentioned concerning improvement of relations between Syria and the United States. It may be that U.S. officials have realized—I say may be because I cannot speak for them and tell you their motives—that what was said about Syria is untrue. Anybody who has realistically, methodically, and objectively observed the developments in this region and Syria's stance on several issues over a long period will come to the conclusion that a great deal of what was said about Syria was false. That is why I am telling you that may be some U.S. officials have come to the conclusion that the impressions in their minds and their convictions were based on what was said about Syria, which is untrue or, at least, imprecise.

Let me cite some examples for you concerning what was said about Syria. We have constantly asserted the importance of peace and working for peace. It was said, however, and may be some still say, that Syria rejects peace. People used to say, moreover, that Syria practices terrorism and promotes acts against U.S. citizens at the time when we have been extending a helping hand to deliver many U.S. citizens of various difficulties and save them from very dangerous situations.

These are just two examples of what was said about Syria inside the United States and elsewhere. As I have told you, some people are perhaps still saying this about Syria. I think people still do. I would not say all of them because some people have realized the truth Syria's true nature. Of course, there are other examples, but there is no need to dwell on this topic.

[Blythstone] Also, it is noticeable that there is more trust between you and President Bush and Secretary Baker than the case was with other U.S. administrations!

[Al-Asad] I made President Bush's acquaintance during our meeting in Geneva. I also got to know Secretary Baker through several meetings during his visits to the region and Syria. I respect the two men. At the same time, I would like to say that during the seventies, there was some progress in Syrian-U.S. relations, but it receded after the Camp David accords.

[Blythstone] I know that you do not like this comparison: You were allied with the United Sates in the desert war against the enemy of the United States in this war, namely Saddam Husayn. You are a strong man and Saddam Husayn is a strong man. Both of you belong to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and want to build a national, secular state, and the two of you are opposed to Islamic fundamentalism. What other parallels are there? Some people say President Hafiz al-Asad is better than Saddam Husayn only to the extent that he takes our side. What do you think?

[Al-Asad] For now, let's not make an issue out of who is the superior one of the two of us. Strangely enough, I was asked the same question in a U.S. television interview not too long ago. I don't know the motive behind this question. In any case, all I can say is that we and Iraq belong to the same nation. We deeply sympathize with the people of Iraq and are pained to see them suffer, as we do with other Arab peoples. At one point, Saddam Husayn, along with a group of Iraqi leaders, and we in Syria were in one party—the Ba'th Party. But differences developed between us a long time ago and then we parted company. We have been two separate parties since 1966. We are two completely distinct and different parties. Throughout the years in which Saddam Husayn has been in power, there have not been any agreements or normal ties between the two countries, save for a brief period of a few months—four, five, or six, I think. Otherwise, we have been in continuous and complete disagreement. This in itself provides the answer to your question.

[Blythstone] One may conclude that you are smarter and that you keep your word.

[Al-Asad] Actually, there may be more to it than that, since we have been at loggerheads for so long—I mean during the time Saddam Husayn has been in office. I think there are many differences between us. I mean our differences have to do with ideas, actions, and personality. Even before he came to power we had our differences. As I have said, we split into two parties 25 years ago, which means that what common ground there is between us amounts to very little.

[Blythstone] People who live far away from this region say that the "Desert Storm" operation has not gone far enough, and that Saddam Husayn is still in power and threatens the region. You are not very far here, so what do you say? I mean has the Desert Storm operation failed to achieve what it should have achieved?

[Al-Asad] Syria's concern was to end the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime's troops. Syria's concern did not go beyond that. In other words, if you are asking if the Desert Storm troops should have gone into Iraq to change the regime and establish a new regime, we do not believe in this or accept it because this is a matter of principle. We do not think that any country has the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of another and send its military forces to that country and remove the existing regime and replace it with another. For us, this is a principle, and we assume all peoples in the world believe in this. The differences that existed, and still exist between us and Saddam Husayn and the ruling regime in Iraq do not change that opinion of ours. We believe that changing the regime or keeping it in Iraq or in any other country is an issue of concern to the people of that country.

[Blythstone] Allow me a question on hostages. Western hostages are now being released in Lebanon. It seems the groups holding the hostages are now feeling the heat, and you are the man holding the match stick. What is happening with these groups now?

[Al-Asad] Developments have helped to improve the situation. I mean developments have created a better atmosphere to help the case of the hostages or the abducted, although in the past, a number of hostages from different nationalities have also been released. Certainly, Syria has always had a hand in helping those who were released. The case is still the same now. Syria cooperates with everyone, states and groups in the region, that can contribute to help the abducted. The improvement in conditions in Lebanon may have been one of the principal factors that made the situation better. Additionally, there were the efforts of Syria, which cooperated with others, and these joint efforts have benefited from the atmosphere I have mentioned. Here, I would like to refer to Iran's cooperation and the role it plays to help the hostages. It is an important role.

[Blythstone] I read that those who are holding the hostages are frightened now. They feel that they have been penetrated, and they want to end this subject. Is this correct?

[Al-Asad] I have no information on the kidnappers whether they are frightened or not. I read this in some papers. Naturally, we do not know the kidnappers—as individuals—directly. In all cases, I do not believe that fear—if it really exists—helped in the release of the hostages recently. As I said, I believe that the efforts and the general atmosphere in Lebanon and in the region helped in the release of those hostages. I am optimistic in my expectations. I expect that the hostages will emerge from this difficult human situation. I am optimistic that they will emerge from it, hopefully, in the not too distant future.

I would like to reiterate that it was not fear that helped in the release of the hostages recently, because, before this period in which people speak about the fear of the kidnappers, a large number of hostages was released.

[Blythstone] Do you, for example, expect the release of more hostages soon, before the beginning of the conference, or at the end of the week?

[Al-Asad] There is nothing at present to make me say yes or no.

[Blythstone] Mr. President, one last question: When people see the opening of this conference and hear the angry words and the mutual accusations and blames, they would feel there is no hope for peace in the region?

[Al-Asad] As far as I know, the Arab side does not have angry words. All Arab officials are talking reason and logic. The words you refer to may be heard daily from some Israeli officials. You hear them in the United States and we hear them in Syria and other Arab countries.

If you are referring to what may be heard at the conference opening session, I believe the Arab position there will be the same as it is now. There will be no angry words. But, naturally, I expect the Arabs to objectively express what they believe is right and just, and to stick, as I have said, to the UN resolutions and insist on starting the peace process, and continuing the peace process, to achieve peace, through reason, logic, calm, and endurance, and not through anger. We go to the conference optimistic, serious, and committed to peace. We hope the others will be the same.

[Blythstone] Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, good luck to all of you in the conference. Thank you for giving CNN this interview.

[Al-Asad] Thank you and welcome.

Al-Shar' Returns From Egypt Visit 27 Oct

JN2710184091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening, after a brief visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Mubarak.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Moscow Visit May Be Postponed

BK2910113291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 29 (AFP)—The head of the Afghan resistance's government in exile said Tuesday the rebels may postpone next week's delegation to Moscow, which has come under attack by hardliners in the guerrilla coalition.

"I am not sure about the delegation's journey to Moscow," which is scheduled for November 3, said Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) based in the northwestern border Pakistani city of Peshawar.

At a news conference, Mojaddedi expressed doubts about the date of the visit rather than the visit itself. He said some rebel leaders who have criticised the continued Soviet backing of the Kabul regime had still not confirmed their participation in the talks, considered important for restoring peace in Afghanistan.

The pro-West moderate leader was to lead the delegation last Monday, but the visit was postponed after hardliners refused to go under his leadership.

A meeting here last week between Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a special envoy of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, and several rebel groups decided that a fundamentalist leader Borhanoddin Rabbani of Jamiat-e Eslami faction would lead the delegation. Both Islamabad and Riyadh back up the Islamic rebels fighting the Marxist government in Kabul.

Sources here said that Mojaddedi was apparently sidelined to convince radical rebel leader Golboddin Hekmatyar to join the talks with the Soviet officials.

The talks have assumed importance after indications from Moscow that the president of the government in Kabul Najibollah might step down in an eventual Afghan settlement.

Mojaddedi, who will now be represented in the delegation by his brother Hashmat, said mojahedin leaders were still finalising their proposals. He added they were waiting for a Soviet reply to the proposal to change the dates.

He confirmed that the mojahedin seriously disagreed with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's proposal to him in New York last month to have the resistance share power with Afghan Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar.

The guerrilla groups want to exclude Najibollah's Watan party and all his associates, he said. He added there were "hundreds of good Moslems" in Kabul who could be considered to share power.

The majority wanted peace and "I am sure the Afghan people will succeed in achieving their objectives," he said.

Mojaddedi also repeated his allegations that "some low-ranking" Pakistani army officers had interfered in mojahedin affairs.

"I lodged a complaint with the Pakistan Government" against their alleged advice to the guerrillas to blow up some barrages in southern Qandahar Province.

"Perhaps they believed this would increase pressure on Kabul leader Najibollah, but the mojahedin refused," he added.

He said he had "very good relations" with the Pakistani leadership and the chief of the military intelligence, who had helped the resistance for the past 13 years, "but it does not mean that we forget our national interest."

Mojaddedi also complained against the involvement of some Arabs, but hastened to add that they were not backed by Saudi Arabian Government. There was "no enmity or hatred" toward Riyadh or Islamabad, he stressed.

Saudi Arabia, a major financer of the 13-year resistance, recently assumed a high profile in Afghan affairs by sending twice in the past two months to Islamabad its intelligence chief, Prince Faysal al-Turki.

The prince reportedly urged the mojahedin factions to forge unity to achieve their goal of establishing an independent Islamic state. He also asked the rebels to evolve a consensus before visiting Moscow.

The oil-rich desert kingdom, as well as Pakistan and Iran, also a rebel backer, have accepted U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's May 21 blueprint for peace in Afghanistan. The blueprint envisages a transitional government negotiated through an inter-Afghan dialogue pending elections.

India

Border Talks With Pakistan Slated 29 Oct

BK2810160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, is leaving for Islamabad tomorrow for the fifth round of foreign secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. Replying to questions by newsmen in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said there is no structured agenda for the talks. He said all debatable issues can come up for discussion during the three-day talks.

Meanwhile, the first round of secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on the demarcation of the land boundary in the Sir Creek area [on the Gujarat-Sindh border] and delimitation of the maritime

boundary concluded in Rawalpindi today. According to a joint statement, the two countries agreed to meet again to further discuss the specifics of the land and maritime boundaries in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date. Our Islamabad correspondent understands that there was a frank exchange of views which resulted in a definite forward movement in the talks.

Talks Open in Islamabad

BK2710154591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] The two-day secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on the Sir Creek border dispute in the Rann of Kutch area began in Islamabad today. The Indian delegation was led by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, West Division, I.P. Khosla; while the Pakistani side was headed by Defense Secretary Syed Salim Abbasi. Earlier, the Indian secretary met the Pakistani defense secretary and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Minister: 6 Pakistanis Killed in Border Attack

BK2710162091 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] India has repulsed a major Pakistani offensive in the Kargil sector of Kashmir. Disclosing this to newsmen in Nagpur today, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said the Pakistani forces used shells and mortars in yesterday's attack and at least six Pakistani soldiers were killed in the counterattack by India. One Indian army jawan [soldier] was killed and four were injured in the attack.

The defense minister said the Pakistani offensive was in clear violation of the recent agreement reached between the two sides at Islamabad. Mr. Pawar said India will have no option but to deal ruthlessly with Pakistan if that country continues to play mischief by infiltration and arming of militants in Kashmir. However, he ruled out a preemptive strike against Pakistan saying that India wants peace and has no intention to start a war with its neighbors.

Debate on Uttar Pradesh Temple Issue Continues

Rao: 'Center Cannot Interfere'

BK2610034691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that unless action is warranted, the center cannot interfere in the developments in Ayodhya. Talking to an AIR [All India Radio] correspondent on board an IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft while returning from a visit to Madras, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the center will study the orders passed by the Allahabad High Court on the Uttar Pradesh government's acquisition of land in Ayodhya.

Replying to a question, the prime minister expressed the hope that there will be an improvement in the ground situation in Punjab and Kashmir. He said though there are no positive signals from Islamabad about Pakistan ending its support to the terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir, the fact that Mr. Nawaz Sharif did not raise the Kashmir issue at the Harare Commonwealth Summit is something to be considered in this direction. He said it was a short and preliminary meeting with the Pakistan prime minister who was told of the obstacles in the way of progress in the talks because of Islamabad's support to terrorists.

On his first visit to Tamil Nadu after assuming office, Mr. Rao said that the purpose was to pay homage to the late Rajiv Gandhi at Sriperumbudur where he was assassinated. He said the visit was for a solemn purpose and, therefore, no other issues were discussed during the meeting with the chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha. Mr. Rao said that a national memorial for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi will be built at Sriperumbudur.

Earlier, the prime minister had called upon the people to take a vow to safeguard national integrity and communal harmony. He also appealed to the people to contribute their might to mitigate the sufferings of the people hit by natural calamity in any part of the country. Addressing a rally at Sriperumbudur, Mr. Narasimha Rao said it is natural in a big country like India to have tension and distress in one part or another. The need of the hour is to face it boldly.

Talking to newsmen at Madras Airport, Mr. Rao said that experts are going into the earthquake damage in the Tehri area. Once their opinion is known a decision will be taken on the issue of constructing a dam there.

Mr. Rao said that the center will go in for a large-scale import of edible oil from Malaysia to meet the requirement.

He said the center has received a letter from Tamil Nadu government asking for the deportation of Sri Lankan militants and the center is seized of the matter.

The prime minister has since returned to New Delhi.

Uttar Pradesh Urged To Obey Court Order

BK2710161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] The center is in touch with the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that nothing is done to disturb peace in Ayodhya and that the court directive is fully observed. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs met in New Delhi yesterday and discussed the situation in Ayodhya in the light of the latest judgments of the Allahabad High Court. Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said the general conclusion was that the status quo should be maintained in respect of all religious places, including the Babri Masjid [mosque]. The prime minister, while talking to newsmen at Madras Airport on Friday [25 October], had stated that the Uttar

Pradesh government should abide by the order of the special bench of the Allahabad High Court.

It may be recalled that the special bench of the court in its interim order had restrained the state government from putting up any permanent structure while allowing it to take possession of the land acquired around the disputed site. It was also directed not to transfer or alienate the acquired land. The judgment had also made it clear that the exercise of power under the land acquisition act shall have to be bonafide. There were reports in the press that two temples in the area acquired had been demolished, while another one [was] partly demolished. The National Front and Left parties demonstrated in New Delhi yesterday to protest against the demolition of temples and the acquisition of land at the disputed site. In its order regarding the taking of possession of the Sakshi Gopal temple by the Uttar Pradesh, the high court while allowing the takeover of the temple had ordered the preservation of the deity installed therein.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has criticized the center for sending paramilitary forces to Ayodhya. He said in Coimbatore today that this step is violative of the Constitution because the Uttar Pradesh government had not requisitioned for the forces. He urged the center to withdraw them immediately as the situation is peaceful in Ayodhya.

Uttar Pradesh To Maintain Law, Order

BK2910043691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, all the borders to the Faizabad District have been sealed in view of today's proposed dharna [sit-in-agitiation] in Ayodhya by the Janata Dal and left front in protest against the demolition of some temples. The Faizabad district administration has sounded a general alert and safeguard security at all the five points to Ayodhya [sentence as heard]. According to official sources, heavy contingents of armed police have been deployed on the district borders to prevent the entry of the Janata Dal and left party leaders.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, said that his government will do anything to maintain law and order without using force. He said that Mr. V.P. Singh's visit will create a law and order problem in Ayodhya and hence he will not be allowed to enter there. He reiterated that the temple will be built without demolishing the Babri mosque. The chief minister also pointed out that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] has purchased the land near the Sri Ram [Hindu god] temple at Ayodhya. The parties are protesting against the acquisition of land around the disputed site in Ayodhya by the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh; CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta; and CPI-M [Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, are among the prominent leaders who are participating in the dharna.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the center has decided to send paramilitary forces, if necessary, to Ayodhya for maintaining security around the disputed area. He was speaking to reporters at the Kharag airport in Maharashtra.

Janata Dal Leader's Visit Prevented

BK2910080691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, was prevented from entering Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh this morning. Mr. Singh was intercepted by the police near Ramsnehighat in Barabanki District. Professor Madhu Dandavate, Janata Dal; Mr. Samar Mukherjee and Mrs. Suhasni Ali, both CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist]; and a large number of leaders and workers belonging to the National Front and left front were with Mr. V.P. Singh when he was stopped.

A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that Mr. Singh and others will not be allowed to proceed further. The leaders of the National Front and left parties along with party workers were on their way to Ayodhya to launch satyagraha [passive protest] in protest against the alleged demolition of some temples around the disputed land.

Meanwhile, security arrangements in Faizabad and Ayodhya have been further tightened to maintain law and order. Strict vigil is being maintained by the security forces at the disputed complex of Ram Janmaboohomi-Babri masjid [temple-mosque] at Ayodhya.

Iran

'Terrorists' To Attack U.S. Citizens in Kuwait

TA2810125891 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] In the wake of anti-U.S. propaganda in Tehran and in a bid to inflict material and physical damage on Americans in other countries, some terrorists are undergoing special training in one of the Guards Corps camps, under the supervision of Anis Naqash, the well-known terrorist. A number of these trained terrorists, disguised as technicians and workers of the Iranian National Oil Company who are currently engaged in extinguishing the fires in Kuwait's oil wells, will be sent to this country in order to assassinate U.S. citizens residing in Kuwait.

Karrubi Calls Conference Anti-Palestine 'Plot'

LD2610175991 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the German Federal Assembly,

Hans Sterchen, said to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi here Saturday that Western states do not have a good view of Jewish influx to occupied Palestine and condemn the project.

Adverting to the international situation the German official said all responsible people should do their best to prevent a war, and together Iran and Germany can help stabilize the unstable situation.

In response Hoj. Karrubi said peace will prevail when unpeaceful and provocative acts are halted, and questioned if the Jewish influx to Palestine from the four corners of the world would be conducive to peace in the Middle East.

He said as far as the Iranians feel the Middle East conference planned in Madrid this week by the U.S. is not the least likely to recognize the right of the Palestinians.

"We consider the Madrid meeting as a plot against Palestine and the Palestinians," said the speaker who earlier this week chaired the international conference in Tehran on the rights of Palestinians, which attended by ministers, parliamentarians and revolutionaries from 60 countries ruled out any compromise with the Zionist usurpers.

He noted that the intifadah in Palestine launched some five years ago is steadily gaining more and more impetus, and said those who are fighting the Zionists in occupied land are the "true representatives of the people of Palestine whose rights have been denied to them."

Karrubi deplored international indifference to major world issues, and as an example, cited the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980, which aggression he said, in the absence of an appropriate international response, later led to another war in the region, namely the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. He said the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, had predicted the later development.

The example of Iraqi war against Iran and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, said Karrubi, "was typical of the irresponsible behaviour of governments which aggrevated the shabby status of global peace."

On the situation in Afghanistan the speaker said that as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned peace in that country would be attained solely through the holding of free elections involving all organizations and especially the mujahidin.

Hans Sterchen who arrived in Tehran on October 23, commented on the Tehran-Bonn ties and said all those agreements entered into by the two countries are in "good faith" and on the basis of mutual understanding. He suggested that the outstanding agreements between the two countries be followed up.

Karrubi expressed hope that the German Government would make a "genuine effort" to go ahead with its halted projects in Iran so that they would be finished as soon as possible.

Tehran Dailies Cited on Madrid Conference

LD2710093191 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Four leading morning dailies on Sunday editorialized on the so-called Middle East peace conference to be opened in Madrid by the U.S. and Soviet presidents on Wednesday.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' lashed out at certain Arab heads for trying to secure their own interests, 'ABRAR' warned against possible plots against Iran, while 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' beleived the real objective is to legitimize the trend of U.S. domination in the Middle East and 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that the conference will mark a turning point in the history of Islamic struggles against the enemies of Islam and the holy Qods.

The Persian Daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted that Yasir 'Arafat is constantly giving concessions and contemptuously announcing that he will accept all the decisions adopted by the Palestinian delegation in the conference.

Never before in the Arab front existed such a regretful circumstances when every Arab head is thinking of his own or his country's interests. In the disintegrated Arab front, neither the participants nor the observers at the Madrid conference, take any step towards materializing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

The real objective of the U.S. and Israel in holding the Madrid confab is to separate the account of the Palestinians from that of the rest of Arabs and in the next stage leave the Palestinians alone in their negotiations with Israel.

The Madrid conference is a carefully planned move against the Palestinians with several objectives aimed to create and expand the scope of open and hidden discrepancies in the Arab fold and in the Muslim world.

The Madrid meeting is a venue for unpopular regimes which want to square accounts with their own people and suppress the revolutionary Muslims and popular forces after pleasing the occupying Israel.

The paper voiced conviction that those who wish to compromise with the occupiers will certainly gain no benefit and that the nations will continue their struggle against them.

The 'Madrid treachery' will further deepen the line between the nations and the compromisers and further purifies the ranks of those who believe in the Palestinian cause. It also teaches the nations that with departure of

those who claim to be advocating struggle, they can fight better and more seriously, a fact which the region will witness it in future.

The other Persian daily ABRAR noted that the Western mass media not only down played the last week Tehran conference in support of the Palestinian Islamic revolution, but also worked to portray the participants as opponents of peace.

The paper added that plots are expected against Iran as Tehran is presently the only supporter of the oppressed Palestinian nation and opponent of all compromising policies.

The editorial in the english daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL also referring to the Tehran conference, wrote that in order to guarantee the achievements of the conference, "the effective role of diplomacy and publicity is indeed undeniable."

Stressing that the current developments in the Middle East is lined to the fate of the entire Islamic world, it regretted that humiliated Arab leaders have paved the way, knowingly or unknowingly, for the U.S. domination in the Middle East region.

It predicted that new developments may emerge in the region, if the U.S. and the Israeli officals fail to achieve their desired result from the Madrid conference.

Stating "the real objective of the conference is to legitimize the trend of U.S. domination in the Middle East," it added that "under the cover of peace efforts, the U.S. has launched an all-out invasion of the Middle East with the aim to throw Islam out of the scene of international rivalry."

"Nevertheless, the vigilance of the world muslims can neutralize these intricate U.S. schemes," it said and concluded that "undoubtedly, resistance against Washington's psychological threats would have valuable fruits for the Islamic World."

Finally, the editorial in TEHRAN TIMES said that as the conference approaches, "growing opposition is voiced against the confab by political figures and groups."

The paper believed "the U.S. is mistaken if it thinks that it could rescue Israel by taking advantage of its victory in the oil war."

Stressing "Muslim nations have realized that real peace is not the target of the Madrid conference," it concluded, "real peace is when the usurper Zionists terminate their occupation of Palestinian lands and return them to their owners."

'Flagrant Insult' But Spain Can Still Back Out

NC2510184291 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Spain, Enmity With the World of Islam!"]

[Text] Islam is at one of the most sensitive junctures of its eventful history and nations and governments are seizing the last opportunities to choose their stances.

This is the day for all those who have been trying for decades, with words supporting the Palestinian nation, to reveal their true stance on Palestine. Today those who issued only slogans while they moved covertly hand in hand with the occupying enemy and its mentors clarify their true stances.

Those who support the ideal of Palestine, its oppressed and harassed people, who truly oppose Israeli crimes, and have taken up a position on the occupier, want to know who supports the occupier and its crimes.

This question is often asked and everyone should consider it carefully. Oppression of the Palestinian nation is unacceptable. But the Palestinian nation is not so alone as to be taken to a savage enemy's sacrificial altar while no one protests.

The Palestinian nation is oppressed. But it is not so alone as to fall victim to the savage enemy's supporters without the villains facing the consequences.

Those who are tempted to add their countries' names to the list of the Israeli occupier's mentors should heed the consequences. Spain has been chosen to host the conference of peace with Israel and some Spanish statesmen hope to benefit.

This is no ordinary event nor will nations react in an ordinary way. If Spain persists it will be scowling at the Muslim nations and Islam and will be blatantly working to stabilize the occupation of Palestine and strengthen the savage occupiers.

This is a flagrant insult to 1 billion Muslims and will certainly not remain unanswered. This is not a threat but a reality which some Spanish officials have intentionally or inadvertently ignored.

The Spanish people are known to Muslims as anti-Israeli, not on good terms with Zionism and its crimes. Therefore, choosing Spain to host the conference which will lead to the connivance of Zionist crimes and stabilize the Palestine occupation, reveals the Spanish Government is indifferent to public opinion in Spain and it could spark off popular reaction.

Irrespective of Israel being an occupying regime, an imposition on the region, and a poisonous wound to the heart of Islam, anyone or any country that strives—in one way or another—to preserve, stabilize, and strengthen it aggravates the homelessness and hardships suffered by the Palestinian nation. They should be aware

they must pay a heavy price. Spain still has time to think, to decide, and to alter its stance.

King Husayn's Dilemma Over Conference Viewed

NC2610082691 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Oct 91 p 16

[By Ahmad Zeyd Abadinezhad: "'The New World Order' and Difficult Choices: In the Margin of the Possible Abdication of King Husayn"]

[Text] Most liberal thinkers consider the "new world order" to be the harbinger of glad tidings of the establishment of democracy in the Third World and believe that democratic rule is imminent. This optimism is being aired at a time when in its annual report the World Bank calls the capitalist world's attention to the need to set up dictatorships in countries that have become politically and economically multipolar. [sentence as published]

What is important for the "new world order" is stability, but there is not just one way for most countries to achieve stability. In countries where the political differences and distance among the various strata are not too great "a Western-style guided democracy" is the suitable way to control tension and create stability. In countries where there are immense political schisms and deep social injustices, however, not only is this not a viable solution, but a dictatorship is required.

In the past few years, Jordan has done its best to move toward democracy and multiple political parties. Now that the United States is striving to bring the Arab countries and Israel to one table for a "Middle East Peace conference" to resolve their mutual differences and to impose its own concept of stability and durability in the region, Jordan is faced with the militancy of various radical forces.

No doubt the United States considers the uprising of revolutionary forces to be to its own detriment and is seeking to combat them, but this cannot be done by so-called democratic means and demands suppression.

It appears that King Husayn is at an impasse: He has to abide by his nation's public opinion, which means he will not be able to participate in the "peace conference," as the Jordanian public is vehemently opposed to the issue, or he can ignore his people's opinion and resort to suppression and strangulation of discordant voices and seat himself at the negotiating table along with all the other Arab countries and Israel. In that case, the Jordanian Government will be nothing but a dictatorship and will lose all it has gained over the past few years.

King Husayn seems hesitant, however, as we can see by his comments that he might abdicate. It is possible that King Husayn's threat to abdicate from the Jordanian monarchy is sincere as this might well be the best path he can choose in the current antithetical conditions.

Lebanon's Junblatt on Peace Conference, Intifadah

NC2610134291 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Oct 91 p 16

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader and minister of state, with unidentified RESALAT correspondent, in Tehran, date not given]

[Text] [RESALAT] What is your assessment of the Tehran conference?

[Junblatt] It is a remarkable move and can be a serious step toward combating the various currents in the Islamic and Arab arena, but it should be a calculated and longterm move. This conference should study the lethal dangers to the world of Islam and means of combating them. The first such danger is Israel's presence in the Palestinian homeland, which is the most important and fundamental issue. This danger has lethal political, social, and economic aspects.

[RESALAT] In your opinion, what are the practical means of supporting the intifadah?

[Junblatt] Political and financial assistance, continuous armed struggle, and endorsement of the patriotic Islamic and Syrian forces.

[RESALAT] In view of the fact that the so-called peace conference in the Middle East will soon be convened in Spain, what will be the benefits of the Tehran conference in support of the Islamic Revolution of the people of Palestine?

[Junblatt] As the Middle East peace conference is soon to take place we should take major steps in the Tehran conference.

[RESALAT] How do you assess the possibility of success for the Middle East conference?

[Junblatt] This conference intends to make Arabs surrender as the United States and Israel's conditions will be very heavy. We should strengthen the patriotic and Syrian forces to combat the Madrid conference.

[RESALAT] In your opinion, why has Syria agreed to participate in the peace conference?

[Junblatt] Syria was under intense U.S. pressure to partipate.

[RESALAT] What pressures made Syria agree?

[Junblatt] The United States is the main ruler of the world. Syria did present some conditions, however, including the return of Arab lands.

[RESALAT] If we agree that the United States is the main ruler of the world, will the intifadah achieve anything?

[Junblatt] The intifadah is an uprising, a national revolution, but Syria is a government. We cannot ask Syria to make military moves.

[RESALAT] So you mean Syria has retreated before the United States in a way?

[Junblatt] Syria wishes to retrieve the Golan Heights and this conference has been imposed on the entire Arab nation, not only on Syria.

[RESALAT] Won't Syria's participation be tantamount to accepting and officially recognizing the Zionist regime?

[Junblatt] We cannot ask for Israel's annihilation and therefore we are forced to accept UN resolutions. Among our demands are an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1976 and 1982 and the establishment of a Palestinian government.

[RESALAT] You said you cannot demand Israel's annihilation. Why not?

[Junblatt] You give me the missiles and I will destroy Israel.

[RESALAT] Are missiles being used in the intifadah all over the occupied lands? Is it not the revolution of stones that has brought Israel to its knees?

[Junblatt] The intifadah is one factor, but if we take it too far it will become marred.

[RESALAT] The intifadah is the greatest asset in the struggle against Israel, so what can be better than the people's support?

[Junblatt] Is this interview a political one or for the sake of news? It seems to have exceeded the boundaries of news and is becoming a political debate.

With these words, Walid Junblatt angrily got up from his chair and left the room. After a few minutes he returned and told the RESALAT correspondent that this interview should not be published and should be torn up and if it were used he would complain to the organizers of the the Tehran conference.

It is worth mentioning that Walid Junblatt had himself accepted the RESALAT correspondent's request to interview him on Palestine.

PRC's Yang Grants 'Exclusive' Interview

LD2610183891 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Beijing, Oct. 26, IRNA—The Chinese president today described the Islamic Republic as an "important country in west Asia and the Persian Gulf" and said Iran was playing a "significant role in the maintenance of peace and stability in this region."

President Yang Shangkun who is to visit Iran October 30, in an exclusive interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), wished Iran success in safeguarding regional peace, and also backed efforts for a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan.

"China has all along attached importance to its friendly relations and cooperation with Iran. We believe that there is a good prospect for our cooperation which may involve such fields as political affairs, economy and trade, science and technology, culture, arts and sports," he said.

Yang who will become the first Chinese head of state to visit Iran after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, traced the two-thousand years of "friendly exchanges" between the two peoples, and said he would be returning the trip made to China in 1989 by leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i who was then president of Iran.

Ties between the two countries, he said were developing "satisfactorily", and "the purpose of my visit is to visit enhance common understanding, deepen friendship and develop cooperation."

Yang added that with Iranian leaders, he would be discussing issues of common concern including the crisis in Afghanistan with which both Iran and China share borders.

"We appreciate the efforts made by Iran and Pakistan in seeking an early political settlement of the Afghan question. China supports the five-point proposal put forward by U.N. secretary general. China will, together with the countries concerned, continue to make efforts to seek an early political settlement of the Afghan issue" he said.

China borders the remote northeastern Wakhan strip of Afghanistan, a landlocked country which is hemmed in from the east to west by Iran and Pakistan, and by Soviet Turkmenistan in the north.

Asked on the role of China in the so-called new world order as a big third world country, he said Beijing stands for a new international order on the basis of peaceful coexistence.

"We are ready to exchange views with all other countries in the spirit of seeking common ground, setting aside the differences, in order to reach common understanding and make our due contributions to the establishment of a peaceful, just and rational new international order," remarked Yang.

He supported the common aspiration of the people of the world and said "the third world should have the equal right to participate in the discussion abaout the new international political order and in its establishment."

Asked about the future of Sino-Soviet relations, the Chinese president said that relations betweent the two Asian giants were based on "good neighbourliness" and so long as the two sides "abide by the joint communiques of 1989 and 1991, relations will maintain a healthy and steady growth."

He emphasized the principle of non-interference in each other's affairs, and said, "China hopes that the central government and the republics of the Soviet Union will maintain political stability and economic development through joint efforts."

On the future of socialism in the world, Yang said "what China is building is socialism with Chinese characteristics."

He said this particular form of socialism has enabled China to acheive success in the economic construction and the improvement of people's livelihood. "We will unswervingly continue to march along this road," added the president.

In a separate interview which appeared in a Tehran English daily today, identical views were expressed by the Chinese ambassador to Iran, Hua Liming, concerning the Chinese brand of socialism.

"In China privatization won't work, Hua told the KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, and elaborated on the achievements of social reforms in his country.

Hua brushed aside those "who are sensitive to the development of relations between China and Iran", and said "for two countries with friendly ties cooperation is normal."

He also dismissed American accusations against China, and cautioned the Third World to "discriminate and resist things that are the cause of corruption in Western societies."

In ancient times, the two countries borders used to meet somewhere in the Pamir Heights, and the earliest recorded agreement between Iran and China is the pact concluded in 115 B.C. by the Parthian Emperor Mehrdad II and the Han Emperor Wu-ti for protection against the marauding Huns. Last July Chinese Premier Li Peng visited the Islamic Republic and held important talks with Iranian leaders.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Foreign Plots

LD2610121791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing a meeting this morning with members of the Islamic Association of Engineers, stressed the crucial responsibility of the intelligentsia and expert forces to educate and enlighten the minds of the young about the conspiracies of world arrogance. He called on the existing parties and societies in the country—while considering the guidelines of Imam Khomeyni—sanctified be his soul—to constantly keep in mind the interests of the community, which are unity and solidarity.

Stressing the need for the active presence of the intelligentsia forces in the state's political arenas, the president said: The majority of the community is behind the revolution from the bottom of their hearts; this is the government's point of strength. However, continuation of this situation must be guarded because the enemies of the revolution are not idle. They are constantly plotting, scheming, and carrying out intrigues within the country, breaking through our defenses at its weak points. They especially endeavor to lead our youth toward indifference.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considers the awareness and vigilance regarding such conspiracies to be one of the essentials of this era of the community, and stressed the role of the intelligentsia stratum—which has a good record before and after the revolution—in this regard.

Referring to the support of a great sector of the Third World nations and the innocents [people] of the developed world for the Islamic Republic because of its offering of intellectual and spiritual aspirations, the president called on the intelligentsia and expert forces to set Islam—the best capital bestowed on us by the Almighty—as an example of principle and foundation, because Islam is what knits everyone together and enables people to endure so much trouble and be invulnerable.

Referring to natural differences between parties, groups and societies which have common principles, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Thank God his eminence the imam has given guidelines in every field; they are invaluable capital for us. As you have always done, keep in sight the aspirations of the revolution—which the imam depicted—under the present conditions, where new issues arise. Their explanation is the responsibility of the leadership, and we must all obey the guardianship of the jurisconsult [velatyat-e faqih] in our policy. In such a case, even if a future dispute arises, it will be resolved. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Speaker Interview Before Leaving

LD2510230491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, the Jordanian Parliamentary speaker following his participation in the international conference for the support of the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people in Tehran, left our country this morning. He was seen off by, Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr. 'Arabiyyat, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent at the airport, termed the convening of the Tehran conference on the threshold of the Madrid conference as exeedingly valuable and, praising the efforts of our country's authorities in this regard, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has stood up to Zionism and infidelity by herself and endeavors to safeguard the Muslims' unity with all-embracing efforts. He added: Today we are at a crucial juncture, and the occupiers of Palestine want to seize the opportunity and undermine the Islamic ummah. But Palestine belongs to

all Muslims, and Qods is the first altar of Muslims across the world. The intifadah, the Palestine Islamic movement, is at the moment, with the support of the people of Palestine and the Muslims, campaigning against the Zionist regime.

The Jordanian parliamentary speaker termed the decisions and results of the Tehran conference as exeedingly positive and valuable. Regarding the convening of the Madrid conference he said: Our enemies, in order to achieve their aims, are trying to create division among Islamic states, and we hope that Muslims across the world will prepare the conditions for struggle against Zionism, more wisely than before, until the emancipation of Qods.

According to the report, during the meeting, the Majles speaker, Mr. Karrubi, said: The presence of revolutionary forces, university lecturers, scientific personalities, writers, and publishers on the one hand, and parliamentary delegations, political personalities, and advisors to the presidents of some of the Islamic countries on the other, can be most effective for the future movements of the Islamic revolution of Palestine. Mr. Karrubi added: The presence of parliamentary speakers, considering their status among the people and their legal position, can be effective in the drafting and preparing of laws in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine. The Majles also has approved special bills and budgets in this regard, and there is to be more cooperation between the Islamic states' parliaments, which we hope to be be useful in furthering the Palestine Islamic revolution.

Mexico To Open Embassy in Tehran 'Soon'

LD2710202291 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—The Mexican Government is to open an embassy in Tehran soon, visiting Mexican Foreign Ministry Director-General Hector Cardenas told Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday. Cardenas also submitted Velayati a message from his Mexican counterpart Fernando Solana Morales.

Velayati expressed satisfaction over the solving of certain difficulties that existed in Tehran-Mexico City relations, and welcomed the decision to open an embassy in Tehran. The Islamic Republic has an embassy in Mexico City, while Mexico used to look after its interests in Iran through an acredited ambassador based in neighbouring Turkey.

Pakistan

PRC's Yang Shangkun Meets Parliament Officials

BK2810164891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Chinese President Yang Shangkun has underscored the need for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Kashmir problem. He made these remarks while talking to National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan who called on him in Islamabad today. They discussed a variety of subjects related to economic, political, cultural, and legislative cooperation between China and Pakistan. The speaker thanked the government and the people of China for their continuous economic and technological support to Pakistan and said that Pakistan-China friendship will grow stronger with the passage of time.

The Chinese president said the friendship between China and Pakistan was established by the old generation of Chinese and Pakistani leaders. It is warmly upheld and nourished by the present generation of leaders and nothing can shake this exemplary friendship. President Yang Shangkun paid rich tribute to late Mohammad Ayub Khan, during whose rule Pakistan-China borders were cordially delineated and a foundation of mutual trust and friendship was laid.

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad paid a courtesy call on Chinese President Yang Shangkun in Islamabad today. They discussed matters relating to the regional and international situation, and bilateral cooperation, especially the exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun has said that Pakistan-China friendship has stood every test of time, and the two countries are having fruitful cooperation in economic and other fields despite having different political systems. He said this in an interview in Islamabad today.

Referring to the new international order, he said it should be in conformity with the UN Charter and the aspirations of the people of the entire world. He added that the order should be based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

Foreign Affairs Official on PRC Leader's Visit

BK2910103091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] Pakistan and China have agreed on the establishment of a new world order based on the UN Charter and Bandung Conference's principle of peaceful coexistence. This was stated by Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, while talking to Radio Pakistan representative in Lahore today on the Chinese president's visit and the Islamabad talks between the leaders of the two countries. He said that the new world should be based on justice and equality and all countries, big or small, powerful or weak, should be treated as sovereign and equal.

PRC Delegation Calls on Senate Chairman

BK2810052491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy Procurator-General Wang Xiaoguang called on Senate chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad yesterday and exchanged views on various matters, including legal arrangements in China. The Senate chairman said both countries can take advantage of an opportunity by exchanging delegations comprised of experts on legal matters.

The Chinese deputy procurator-general also called on Federal Law and Justice Minister Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor in Islamabad yesterday. The federal minister apprised Chinese guests of the country's law and judicial structure. The Chinese deputy procurator-general praised Pakistan's role in the development of law and judicial systems.

IMF Chief Calls on President Ishaq Khan

BK2810062691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The International Monetary Fund [IMF] managing director, Michel Camdessus, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad last evening and exchanged views on matters related to possible assistance by the IMF toward Pakistan's economic development and improvement. The president said the IMF should encourage Pakistan's courageous policies and should provide sufficient resources to continue those policies. The president also referred to new economic pressure and opportunities arising out of the current international situation and said there was a need for special arrangements to deal with them effectively. The IMF managing director assured the president that if there was any pressure on Pakistan's economy due to a change in policies on loan payments, IMF would try to provide the necessary protection for Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif on Afghan Mojahedin's USSR Visit

BK2410165491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] A delegation of Afghan mojahedin leaders will be leaving for Moscow early next month, following intensive discussions with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. The discussions were attended by all groups of Afghan mojahedin. The focus of today's discussion was to find a political solution to the Afghan issue. The prime minister, who was later joined by Prince Turki al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia at the meeting, urged the Afghan mojahedin leaders to send an effective delegation to Moscow and enter into serious discussions with Soviet leaders. He said the international environment at present is most congenial for a political solution of the problem of ensuring permanent peace in Afghanistan.

Referring to efforts of the UN Secretary General for an acceptable solution, the prime minister asked mojahedin leaders to extend full cooperation to him.

Prince Turki al-Faysal specially came to Islamabad from Saudi Arabia to attend the meeting.

Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi this evening, Prince Turki al-Faysal said both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would continue their support to Afghans in reconstruction of their country once peace is achieved there. He said Saudi Arabia and Pakistan fully agree that the people of Afghanistan are very close to a peaceful political settlement. He said he had come to Pakistan on the directive of King Fahd to convey his message to Afghan brethren that their struggle for a just and equitable peace in Afghanistan is nearing completion. Another message at this moment is the need for unity within their ranks. He praised Pakistan's role during the last 12 years for supporting the Afghan struggle and sheltering such a large number of refugees.